

# OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 29, 2015

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## Holidays absence fines rule adopted

MID Wales parents can now be fined for taking their children out of school for holidays after new guidelines were approved.

Parents can now be issued with £60 fixed penalty notices, councillors have agreed.

The notices can be issued when pupils have five unauthorised school days off, although they are only applicable when a pupil's attendance falls below the 90 per cent threshold for the year, which is 19 days unauthorised absence.

They can also be issued for persistent late arrivals at class.

If the fines are not paid within 28 days they would then rise to £120.

Powys County Council's deputy leader Wynne Jones said that the policy would not mean parents could no longer take their children out of school for holidays.

The councillor said: "It should be made clear that this is not the end of any family being able to take their children out of school for a holiday because there are more than two weeks leeway in this."

Councillor Jones said research had shown the pupils with fewer absences had a tendency to perform better at school.

However council officer Ian Roberts reminded councillors that no parents are allowed to take pupils out of school for holidays without permission.

## Employee is injured after garage raid

A PETROL station cashier was injured during a robbery in Oswestry.

The man suffered injuries to his arm during the early morning attack on the Shell service station on Salop Road.

Two men were arrested on suspicion of robbery and have since been bailed.

Police were called to the garage at 4.30am on Friday. The forecourt and shop were both taped off during the morning while officers carried out investigations but it re-opened during the afternoon.

A spokesman for West Mercia Police said that the male employee suffered an arm injury but that it was not serious.



Councillor Vince Hunt

## Town council agrees to freeze tax rates

PEOPLE living in Oswestry will be quids in next year after the town council agreed to freeze its council tax rates.

Members of Oswestry Town Council unanimously approved a "zero per cent increase" for 2015/2016 at the authority's latest meeting on Monday.

Councillor Vince Hunt said he hoped the decision to freeze the town council's portion of the council tax would help bring back a "feel good factor" to Oswestry

after the recent economic adversity.

Councillor Hunt said: "With fuel prices down a bit at the moment it's nice we can leave money in pockets."

"This helps with a bit of the feel good factor, which I think people need after the last few years of economic pressure."

The town councillors also voted to request a precept from Shropshire Council of £339,631 and they approved a draft budget for

the next financial year. Monday's meeting heard that while most costs will remain stable from this year, council wages and associated costs are expected to rise by more than £2,500.

An extra £1,000 has been budgeted for the town's annual food and drink festival which attracts thousand of people to the town each year and has grown into one of the region's largest events.

And Christmas is expected to be more expensive next year as an

extra £14,000 is being set aside to cover the cost of the town's festive lights and Christmas Music Live event.

Christmas Music Live also brings in thousands of people to the town, bringing a boost for traders.

But the cost of CCTV coverage of the town will more than halve next year from £37,300, following the installation of new digital cameras across the town this year, to £17,500.

## Proposals to close schools go ahead

A HUGE education shake-up in Mid Wales is to go ahead councillors have agreed.

Powys County Council's cabinet agreed on Tuesday to move ahead with a plan to close three of the county's 12 secondary schools as part of cost cutting measures.

However, it confirmed that no decisions have yet been taken over which schools will be recommended for closure.

The names of the schools to be recommended for closure will not be announced until March.

Cabinet member for education Arwel Jones told councillors on Tuesday: "We are hoping to bring an initial paper back to cabinet in March with initial areas we would be looking at."

"At the moment we have no preference and no names of schools in mind."

"It is a balance between educational provision and the finance we have got."

"As an authority we are required to provide the best education for the pupils of Powys within the budget we have so it is a fine balancing act."

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies said he was concerned about the cuts.

Mr Davies warned the loss of any secondary school for any town in Mid Wales would "tear the heart out of the community".

He said: "This would be a very dramatic change, it would be a real desperate blow to any town to lose its school, both for the morale and the future of the town."

## Museum is given licence for weddings

POWYSLAND Museum in Welshpool has been granted a licence to hold weddings and civil partnerships in a bid to get more use out of the building.

Powys County Councillor Graham Brown said: "The council is looking at innovative ways to make greater use of its many buildings and Powysland Museum will make an attractive and unusual venue for couples looking for something different."

"Situated in the tranquil and lovely canal wharf, it should make a lovely backdrop to the ceremony and to any photographs of the special day."

# LIDL SHOP PLAN SPARKS FEARS

**A THIRD supermarket proposed for a gateway road into Oswestry could destroy the hard work that has gone into building up the town centre, a councillor has warned.**

Oswestry Town Council this week broadly welcomed the bid by discount Lidl for a store on Victoria Road.

By Pam Kingsley

But Councillor Duncan Kerr said he was worried that it would exacerbate the threat of the Smithfield redevelopment on Shrewsbury Road which it is feared will draw shoppers out of the town centre.

Lidl plans to build on the site currently occupied by the JT Hughes car dealership and create a small retail park with three other shops, including Pets At Home. Aldi has already put in a planning bid for a store on Shrewsbury Road a few hundred metres further out of town while the go-ahead has already been given for a Morrisons supermarket, cinema and restaurants on part of the Smithfield site.

Although the decision on the Lidl plan will be taken by Shropshire Council, Oswestry Town Councillors, meeting on Monday night, were asked for their views.

Councillor Kerr said: "This Lidl would exacerbate the issues caused by the Smithfield development and I think if there was a need for another supermarket there are sites available closer to the town centre than this."

"For many years people have been trying to build

up the town centre and we don't want to see it ruined now. There are other towns where the town centre is only Aldi and Lidl now. We don't want that here."

However Councillor Chris Schofield said: "There are people in the town who would love to see a Lidl. The town centre does matter but so do people's pockets."

Councillors agreed to write to Shropshire Council planners to let them know their concerns, but to broadly support the bid.

Shropshire Council's Business and Enterprise Service has written in support of the bid. It says the development would result in the creation of up to 50 jobs and provide a wider range and choice of convenience and comparison goods.

As part of the planning bid Chris Smith for Lidl says a retail assessment has shown that the 'deep discount' stores do not have a large effect on town centres. He said: "Lidl is not a one-stop shop destination and shoppers would be expected to continue to visit the town centre alongside trips to the store."

## Delight after store reopens in village



Hazel Johnston stacks the shelves at the newly reopened store

A NEW store and post office has opened in a village near Oswestry which was left without a shop for 12 months.

Trefonen Stores closed in January last year after a burglary.

Now the shop in Bellan Lane once again has the open sign hanging on its door thanks to shopkeeper Hazel Johnston.

Mrs Johnston, from Oswestry, said she spotted the business opportunity when she took part in the popular Trefonen Hillwalk Weekend which sees hundreds of people come to the area.

She said: "My grandchildren go to Trefonen School and my daughter lived in the village. We had a lovely day out in Trefonen for the hillwalk and when we walked past the shop I thought how sad it was that the shop wasn't open. I am sure a lot of people would have popped in over the weekend had it been open."

Mrs Johnston discovered that it was possible to lease the building, which was originally Martin's Stores.

She said: "I love the village of Trefonen and felt that it really needed a shop."

"So far everyone has been very welcoming. Everyone has said how much they have missed a convenience store."

She said her aim was to sell as much local produce as possible.

Mrs Johnston said: "Already our local goods have been some of our best sellers. The Smith's bread and Hartshorn's pies are flying off the shelves."

The shop will open weekdays from 7.30am until 7.30pm, Saturdays from 8am until 7.30pm and Sundays between 9am and 2pm. The Post Office will initially be open Mondays and Tuesdays between 10am and 2pm. Mrs Johnston said that she hoped local people would make a real effort to use the Post Office.

"If it is a success, maybe we can extend the opening hours," she said.

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Why is this person dressed up as a seagull? Turn to Page 8 to find out the answer

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# Fight against homes plan wins councillors' support

Report by Pam Kingsley

**A CAMPAIGN to stop a four-storey block containing 55 care apartments aimed at older people has won the backing of councillors.**

Members of Oswestry Town Council condemned the plans put forward by Wrekin Housing Trust to build the block and eight bungalows in Alexandra Road in the town. It comes after residents living in the area launched a petition in a bid to stop the plans.

## Residents complain about bad smell in air

AN investigation has been launched into a foul smell lingering in the air over Chirk.

Resident and councillor, Terry Evans, says the stench can be smelled along the main road through Chirk, but the problem emanates from a sewerage 'dosing station' a few miles out of the town.

He wants Welsh Water to find a permanent solution. Mr Evans said that it was a reoccurring problem which hit Chirk again on Tuesday. Gwyn Thomas, of Welsh Water, said: "We are aware of reports of odour affecting parts of Chirk and are investigating if there is any link to our waste water network."

"We have odour monitors in place at various points on our network in the area which will help us understand what is happening in the network when odours occur."

"Customers can also assist us with our investigations by immediately reporting any odours which they believe are linked to our network."

Councillor sitting on the authority's development and planning committee unanimously opposed the plans, claiming a four-storey development was out of keeping with its surroundings.

The committee's views will be considered when Shropshire Council's north planning committee makes a decision on the plans at a future meeting.

Wrekin Housing Trust wants to offer the apartments and bungalows to people over the age of 55 to allow them to live independently for as long as possible.

The scheme would also include a residents' lounges, hobbies room and a café, as well as a range of organised social activities. Lyn MacDonald, one of the residents protesting against the development, spoke at Monday night's meeting to share the concerns of local people.

She said: "Many of my neighbours have been becoming ill with worry and having sleepless nights because they are thinking about this."

Committee chairman Chris Stokes said: "We support in general terms that some development should be allowed in this site, but we object to this plan. Four storeys is out of keeping with the rest of the area, which is two storeys."

## Befriending service looking for help



Victoria Hughes and Kate Kaye are looking for more volunteers to help the CHUMS service in Oswestry

A BEFRIENDING organisation that helps elderly and vulnerable people in Oswestry is appealing for more volunteers to help keep the service a success.

The CHUMS service is a community support team based at Qube in Oswald Road.

It offers a befriending service and a shopping assistance scheme across not just the Oswestry area but also north Shropshire.

Victoria Hughes from CHUMS said: "We are asking for volunteers who can spare a few hours each week and become part of their friendly team

of volunteer shoppers. In return CHUMS offers full training and ongoing support as well as access to a fun monthly social group where volunteers can make new friends at a variety of events including coffee mornings, craft sessions and exercise classes."

She said that volunteer shoppers can take a client out on a one-to-one basis each week to assist with all aspects of the shopping trip or doing the shopping and deliver it to those unable to leave their home.

Volunteers are also needed to drive the organisation's Fiat Doblo vehicle to assist clients with mobility issues

or to run multiple shopping deliveries.

The CHUMS organisation currently helps around 25 people week after week.

The group has another 40 clients on its waiting list in need of a volunteer to help with their shopping.

In return the volunteers are paid a mileage expense and are given half day initial training and ongoing support.

Additional training is also provided free of charge for those wishing to provide the CHUMS disabled access vehicle. Anyone interested should contact (01691) 656882 or email v.hughes@qube-oca.org.uk.

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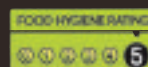


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## Cutting of trees bid leads to action

MORE than 40 signatures were collected in a single day on a petition protesting against controversial plans to cut down four trees.

Residents living near Abraham Court in Lutton Close, Oswestry, signed the petition after learning of the plans to cut down the plum and ash trees.

The trees are situated in the garden of Abraham Court and in the adjacent Catholic church grounds, and the owners of Abraham Court have claimed the trees do need to go.

But residents and councillors have claimed they are an important landmark.

John Woodyatt presented the petition to Oswestry Town Council's development and planning committee on Monday.

He said: "They do contribute to the street scene and attractiveness of this historic town." Councillor Paul Milner, who represents the area, said he had been shocked to see the plans.

Councillor Milner asked the town council to object to the plans. His proposal was supported by Councillor Sandy Best, and the council agreed to the pair's request. The owners of Abraham Court claim the plum tree is a "sickly specimen" and is blocking light, and that the three ash trees "will dominate in the future".

## CV writing workshop

THE National Careers Service will be holding a CV writing advice morning in Oswestry.

It will take place at Oswestry Library tomorrow (Friday) from 10.30-11.30am.

Anyone who needs help in creating a CV for job applications or who would like to update a current CV is welcome to go along.

# Ashdown backs calls for a rethink of power line plan

**FORMER Liberal Democrat leader Lord Paddy Ashdown has backed calls for National Grid to rethink plans to build "a forest of pylons" across Shropshire and Powys.**

He said while his party is in favour of renewable energy sources, it shouldn't come at the cost of the beauty of the countryside.

"The greatest asset of a beautiful constituency like Montgomeryshire, or an area like Shropshire, is nature and the beauty of this area is why people love it, so it would be stupid I think if you built pylons across it," he said.

"Windfarms are important, but equally so are making sure you bury the cables and don't have a forest of pylons across the countryside.

"Our case is that we're looking at the future but we don't want to do it at the cost of the destruction of the nature."

Lord Ashdown was in Welshpool on Thursday last week to meet with the Lib Dems Montgomeryshire parliamentary candidate Jane Dodds and local party members, who have launched a "No More Pylons" petition.

His visit came just two weeks after Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg visited Berriew, near Welshpool, to give his support to Miss Dodds's pylons campaign.

Under National Grid's plans, the line would carry electricity generated by windfarms from a proposed substation at Cefn Coch, near Llanfair Caereinion, to Lower Frankton, near Oswestry. It is planned that part of the line should go underground while other parts could be carried on pylons.

Meanwhile, Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies has written to the chairman of National Grid to ask him to reconsider the plans following criticism of the scheme by Nick Clegg and Lord Ashdown.

Mr Davies said the com-

By Pam Kingsley

ments by the two high-profile Liberal Democrats added weight to calls for the undergrounding of the power cables or the scrapping of the scheme.

Tory Mr Davies said: "If I can have my political opponents and the Deputy Prime Minister come into my constituency and say this, then it adds weight to the argument."

Oswestry businessman Clive Knowles whose visitor attraction the British Ironwork Centre is under the path of the proposed pylons said money from a £500 million fund to reduce the impact of pylons must be made available.

Mr Knowles said money set aside by National Grid in its "Visual Impact Provision Project" should be used to help those affected.

Mr Knowles's staff were involved in a row with National Grid bosses after they came to his business last week to discuss the plans.

The meeting became heated after Mr Knowles told grid bosses that they would not be able to use their cars to leave unless some peace of mind was offered.

Mr Knowles said the officials took his comments as a threat and called police.

He said: "In reality no officials had actually been stopped or had even attempted to leave."



Lord Ashdown makes his point, watched by Lib Dem candidate Jane Dodds, during his visit to Welshpool

## Raft of cuts set to be approved

MORE than £16 million of cuts including secondary school closures, moving to three-week bin collections and ceasing funding of theatres are being recommended by Powys County Council.

The council's cabinet voted unanimously to agree its 2015/16 budget plans on Tuesday which also include a four per cent rise in council tax.

The proposals still need to be approved by a meeting of the full council on February 11, but the recommended council tax increase would see the bill for an average band D homeowner increase by £40.22p, to £1,045.62p per year.

The recommended budget features a raft of service cuts. They include saving £450,000 by

handing management of leisure centres to a different company, £350,000 by reducing opening hours at libraries, £283,000 by ceasing funding for theatres, and £300,000 by ceasing to fund seven day centres.

It is also recommended that the council cuts £300,000 from the waste service budget and considers a move to three weekly collections for wheelie bins and refuse sacks – but not recycling – and that car parking charges are increased.

The schools service is facing £1.8 million of cuts, including a review of school meals, a reduction in the number of pupils attending schools, and removing the library service from schools' delegated budget.

The council's deputy leader, Wynne Jones, said his group of the Powys Independent Alliance (PIA) would be happy to support the budget but Aled Davies, leader of the Conservatives, criticised plans to increase council tax.

He said: "I am very disappointed to see council tax will be going up by four per cent, one of the highest in Wales, when last year's medium term financial plan showed a budgeted increase of 2.5 per cent."

Councillor David Jones, former council leader and now a deputy leader of the PIA said a rise in council tax is essential to safeguard the Welsh Government "floor" which protects councils which receive the lowest budget settlements from government.

## Police precept brought down

PEOPLE will pay £10 a year less for policing in Mid Wales after the council tax precept was lowered by five per cent.

The proposal had been put forward by Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon, and has now been approved by the Police and Crime Panel.

Mr Salmon said the force had made savings and he wanted to pass those on to Mid Wales rate payers.

He said: "This will lighten the load on the hard-pressed householders of an economically poor region."

"It's been made possible by tough decisions I've taken to make Dyfed-Powys Police more efficient and by the hard work of the Chief Constable, his officers and staff."

## Gas pipes work gets under way

WORK has begun to replace gas pipes in Oswestry town centre.

Cars have been prevented from travelling along Leg Street and parts of Beatrice Street during the work, which started on Monday and will last for about three weeks. But pedestrians will be able to get to shops on both streets while contractors work in the area.

Wales & West Utilities will replace 63 metres of old metal gas pipes with new plastic pipes in parts of Leg Street, Beatrice Street, and Albion Hill.

## Prayer appeal is welcomed

CALLS from the Anglican Bishop of Shrewsbury the Rt Rev Mark Rylands to pray for farmers facing falling milk prices have been welcomed.

Llanfyllin farmer Peter Lewis said: "This shows that the plight of dairy farmers is now being recognised. It is nice that people are concerned for us. There really is a crisis in the dairy industry and the next six months will be critical."

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# Drill campaigners hopeful plans will be turned down

Report by Rebecca King

**CAMPAIGNERS** have claimed they are winning the argument against drilling for gas at a site between St Martins and Ellesmere after landmark rulings elsewhere.

The group Frack Free Dudgeon said decisions made in other parts of the UK give hope that plans to operate an exploratory borehole for coal bed methane extraction at Dudgeon will also be turned down.

Leader of the group Chris Hesketh said he remains "optimistic" the scheme will be turned down after seeing plans elsewhere rejected over noise level concerns.

He said: "Last week, planning officers in Lancashire recommended refusal of a multi-site application there on the grounds of non-compliant noise levels.

"Aside from being pleased for the residents there, the particular relevance of this to us is that we have a non-compliance on the noise levels in this application, along with several other factors."

The upbeat message comes after applicants for the Dudgeon site Dart Energy demanded a decision after losing patience with Shropshire Council when a meeting of the council's north planning committee in October saw the decision delayed for more information.

In a bid to speed up the process the firm has lodged an appeal with the government planning inspector on the grounds of non-determination by Shropshire Council.

Douglas Bain, country manager for Dart Energy, said: "It is in the best interests of all parties to have clarity on the application. All information to enable a decision has been submitted to the council and our discussions remain very constructive. The application clearly establishes this temporary operation would be environmentally and economically acceptable, which was confirmed by the planning committee report, and I very much hope that the appeal will be upheld."

Dart Energy has made it clear its application is for the exploration of coal bed methane, not fracking. Mr Bain added that he understood the concerns of people but insisted those fears were based on misinformation and "scaremongering".

Members of a group that has set up camp on the site of the proposed drill site said they don't believe any decision will be made under after the general election in May.

But they say they will continue to live at 'Castle Dudgeon' until the end.

One of the 'protectors' now living at Castle Dudgeon is known only as Yellowbelly.

He said he would continue to live on the site, which consists of a number of wooden shacks with little or no home comforts apart from basic fires and wood burners.

Phil Sherrard, for Parish, said his client was remorseful of the impact the offence had on the victim.

She rang the police and remained upstairs to avoid confrontation.

Mrs Tench said that a police officer arrived at the scene and while searching the house heard a man laughing from outside before shouting "go on then arrest me".

The officer also noted that a concrete block had been used to smash the door window and that two other windows were cracked.

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## Craft group is relaunched



Cllr Keith Barrow, artist Valentine Davis and Cllr Gareth Jones at the relaunch

A CRAFT-based organisation has relaunched with a new name and focus.

The Project Group, which was set up in Oswestry a decade ago, has become Designs in Mind. Organisers have plans for the group to grow into a thriving, self-sustaining social enterprise.

Based in town centre studios Designs in Mind describes itself as a not for profit studio of designer makers with experience of mental health issues.

As well as producing commissions, both private and public, the not-for-profit group - which is based in Oswestry town centre and includes designer makers with experience of mental health issues - sells directly to the public. It also runs workshops

for a wide range of people from schools and holiday clubs to large corporate bodies and in-service training.

Officially launching the new-look group, Councillor Keith Barrow, leader of Shropshire Council, said that not enough was done to recognise mental health issues.

During the relaunch, Cllr Barrow and Oswestry Mayor Gareth Jones presented artist Valentine Davis with a cheque to start a "window watch" project.

The programme is aimed at creating silk hangings that will move around empty shops in Oswestry.

More information about Designs in Mind is available from the website designsinmind.co.uk or on its Facebook page.

**William Powell**  
 Lib Dem AM for Mid & West Wales

**February 6th 2015**  
 11am - 1pm

**February 27th 2015**  
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# Town council enters battle to save morning train link

Report by Pam Kingsley

**COUNCILLORS** in Oswestry will write to North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson to urge him to help save an early morning train service which is under threat.

Members of Oswestry Town Council promised to act after being contacted by the Shrewsbury to Chester Rail Users' Association asking for the authority's support.

It comes after Arriva Trains Wales announced plans to shake up some services serving the area from May. The proposed new timetables would see the loss of the 7.47am Wrexham to Birmingham service, which stops at Gobowen and Chirk. Both stations are near to Oswestry and are well used by people in the area for their rail travel needs.

## Red signals missed in rail testing

FIVE trains have gone through red lights on a line through Shropshire and Mid Wales – because of a trial scheme to turn Britain's railway system to metric.

The Cambrian line has been used as a test bed for a new system in which mile markers are replaced with kilometres.

But train drivers have criticised the trial as a "total mess" and warned it creates an "unacceptable risk" to passengers.

The popular line takes tens of thousands of tourists each year from Shropshire to the Welsh coast as well commuters to and from Welshpool and Newtown.

Train drivers' union Aslef claimed the trials had caused confusion. Aslef general secretary Mick Whelan said Network Rail had not adequately adapted the infrastructure on the line during the trial. He said there had been five trains going through red lights in as many months and warned of widespread delays and disruption when the system goes nationwide.

His concerns have been backed up in a survey by the Rail Safety and Standards Bureau (RSSB). The report said: "Train drivers may, for a time, have to operate in metric one day, and imperial another, thus exacerbating potential for confusion and error." The new computerised system will be phased in over two decades to make the UK fit in with the EU.

Network Rail said: "Our aim is to digitise the railway to ensure Britain has the network it needs for the future."

Members of the town council's finance and general purposes committee agreed at a meeting on Monday night to write to Mr Paterson to express their concerns.

They said they would ask him to contact Arriva Trains Wales on their behalf to see if the early morning commuter service could be saved.

Councillor Cynthia Hawkesley said: "I propose that we put it to our MP to oppose the possible loss of this train, because I believe it's vital to our area."

Councillor Paul Milner agreed that the service was important to the local area and was concerned that a change in times could lead to people missing connections.

He said: "We should do everything we can to keep this service."

But Councillor Vince Hunt said the number of people adversely affected by the changes may be offset by the number of people who would like a direct train to Cardiff, which is also proposed.

"While I'm disappointed, there will be some people – those going to Cardiff – who are happy because they can go straight through," he said.

Last month Shrewsbury to Chester Rail Users' Association launched a petition in a bid to save the early morning train services.

The association says it provides an important direct service for commuters and students from north Wales to the West Midlands and Birmingham Airport.

It had been suggested the Holyhead to Cardiff 'Premier' express service, which currently runs non-stop between Wrexham and Shrewsbury, would stop additionally at Ruabon, Chirk and Gobowen.

But the service runs 15 minutes earlier than the current train and the association said passengers for the Birmingham line would face inconvenience and delay to their journeys through having to change at Shrewsbury.

## Jay gets to work on art deal



Jay Moore is being kept busy creating art pieces after firms backed a youth project

ARTIST and musician Jay Moore has a large task on his hands – fulfilling a promise to people who helped buy new games equipment for young people in Oswestry.

Mr Moore, who runs Fusion Arts at The Centre in Oak Street, Oswestry, held an on-line pledge appeal to try to raise £1,000 to set up a gaming club for teenagers.

Local businesses donated raffle prizes allowing all those who pledged a certain amount of money to be entered into a raffle. And for those pledging £10 or more Mr Moore promised to create a unique piece of spray paint artwork as a thank you.

The appeal was a success and the £1,000 raised has now been spent on an air hockey table and also the next generation games consoles. A gaming evening is now running

at The Centre every Thursday evening. It now means Mr Moore has to complete dozens of pieces of art to meet his end of the deal.

"We asked the young people what they would like to see in the building and games consoles and games equipment was high on the list", said Mr Moore. "The air hockey table has been a great hit with everyone. "When I pledged a piece of artwork to each person who donated £10 I didn't really think what it would mean. I now have more than 30, individual, unique pieces to make so I hope everyone will be a little patient."

"We also can't thank enough all the local businesses who donated raffle prizes and everyone who got involved in the online fundraiser."

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## BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

None of us will be far away from political headlines over the next few months as we head towards the General Election but I have just been attracted to one that made my blood boil.

Caron Lindsay, a Scottish Liberal Democrat activist, has sounded off in - the apparently well-read blog - "Liberal Democrat Voice", and she wants Lord Alex Carlile booted out of her party.

Who is this woman and has she completely lost the plot? Such madness will have the Conservatives dancing in the streets of Montgomeryshire and Lib Dem candidate Jane Dodds racing red-faced from house to house in a bid to distance herself from such outrageous demands.

As the former editor of a newspaper covering Montgomeryshire I was blessed to work alongside five MPs. All extremely honourable men, doing their best to serve their constituents.

And in Alex Carlile, Ms Lindsay's party possessed a man of remarkable intelligence, dignity and integrity who dedicated his life to fighting causes for Montgomeryshire.

So what heinous crime has he committed for the fair Scot to demand he be cast aside? It seems he has strong views about the Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill, which really means he wants to protect us all and introduce better online security.

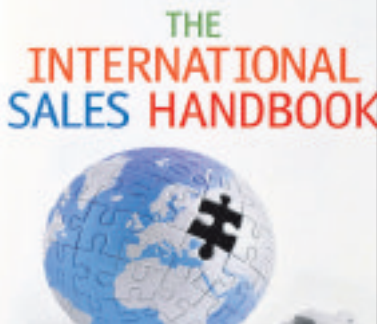
Lord Carlile says he has taken the view that if the head of the security service and the current Metropolitan police commissioner argue that more powers are needed urgently to retain communications data due to changes in technology, action is needed now rather than wait until after the General Election. Some Liberals disagree with this view, believing that new powers will really mean a "snoopers charter" which will allow even our e-mails to be made available for scrutiny as issues of national security.

I think the people of this country, and certainly the people of Montgomeryshire where the former MP is still held with great regard, will choose to put their faith in Lord Carlile.

Montgomeryshire has rarely seen such political activity than in recent weeks with Liberal Democrat HQ clearly targeting the seat won by Conservative Glyn Davies from Lembit Opik at the last election.

I'm sure Jane Dodds will not have welcomed Ms Lindsay's comments either, particularly after Paddy Ashdown visited the constituency last week and praised the qualities of her predecessors as MP for Montgomeryshire.

Having witnessed Lord Carlile in action, both as a political debater and as an outstanding QC, I would advise Ms Lindsay to avoid a showdown session or be eaten alive.



John Lynch's latest book is about building export sales in foreign countries



John Lynch has worked in countries such as Syria where car bomb attacks have become common



Erbil in Iraq, which has been subject to car bomb attacks, is another place John Lynch has worked

# Salesman John is not a stranger to troublespots

**John Lynch is no ordinary travelling salesman. TOBY NEAL finds out more about his foreign adventures**

**HE'S an international salesman whose travels have most recently taken him to one of the world's most deadly troublespots - strife-torn Iraq.**

He's been held up at gunpoint, and offered women to help the business deal go smoothly (he refused).

"I'm no stranger to dangerous places," says John Lynch, who is also making a name for himself as a writer and has two new books out.

"The advantage of dangerous places from the salesperson's point of view is that no-one else goes there and people are so delighted when you turn up that you get the business.

"I've sold more than a million dollars' worth of paint to Iraq this year alone," said John, who lives near Oswestry, and has recently been in Erbil, Iraq, and in Jeddah.

One of his new books draws on his own experience.

## Corruption

It's called The International Sales Handbook and within its 170 pages are everything he has learned about building export sales.

It gives the essentials to salespeople on how to survive and how to prosper, and covers all aspects - including corruption.

Apart from Iraq, other countries John has visited in the last few years have included Nigeria, South Africa, Syria and Libya.

"Which is the most dangerous place I've been during that time?"

"Moss Side in Manchester," he says.



John Lynch has over 40 years' experience in international sales

"The press gives all those places a bad name but the reality is that the thing you most have to fear is - wrong place, wrong time.

"In all of those countries I just mentioned the majority of people want the same things.

"A safe environment where they can live their lives without fear of violence or disease.

"A roof over their heads and a job to go to.

"Food for their families and education for their children.

## Arrest

"Freedom from arbitrary arrest and the ability to get the things they need without having to pay bribes.

"Those are probably the things you want, too. And that's the point.

speaking German, and shrugged but let us drive away. As we did so, the driver said, "That was a very stupid thing to do."

"Of course he was right. I had let anger influence my actions.

"I was no stranger to Lagos and I had known as we drove that we were not taking the obvious route to the airport.

"We were on a little-used road and as soon as I saw the roadblock and the policeman I knew it was a set-up and the driver was in on it.

"Was the copper even a real policeman?"

"I have no idea. I got away with it.

"But what would have happened if the driver had said, 'He isn't German. He's English'?"

## Trouble

"I could have been in a lot of trouble.

"The usual advice is: If they want your car, give it to them. If they want money, give it to them. And hope they let you walk away."

Born in 1943, John has over 40 years' experience in international sales in a variety of product types and, as he retires in April, wanted to set down everything he has learned in a form easy to read and understand.

He added: "Also, I don't want retirement to mean a complete end to my working life.

"I saw writing this book as a way to attract offers from people who could use my experience and knowledge."

His other book is very different.

Zappa's Mam's A Slapper is fiction, with a fair part of it set in Shrewsbury, and is billed as a bittersweet story of love, loss and one young man's refusal to accept what life offers.

A third book is another work of fiction, called Sharon Wright: Butterfly. Sharon wants a better life, but finds herself in the middle of a plot involving two hitmen.

The books are all published by Mandrill Press at [www.mandrillpress.com](http://www.mandrillpress.com), and are also available as ebooks.

## WORKING FOR YOU



Owen Paterson MP

It is really great that there is more encouraging news about our growing economy this week.

There are more people in work than ever before with 1.75 million more people in employment since the election.

At last, real wages are increasing.

Regular pay has risen by 1.8 per cent, above the rate of inflation.

Unemployment in North Shropshire has halved since 2010 from 3.9 per cent.

It now stands at an encouraging 1.8 per cent of the economically active population.

The economy has grown by 2.6 per cent, the largest increase since 2007 and is now 3.4 per cent above its pre-recession peak.

We are the fastest growing G7 economy.

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) latest 'World Economic Outlook', shows that the UK is forecast to have the fastest growth among advanced economies over 2014 as a whole.

The Government is working through its plan that backs businesses with lower taxes, with better infrastructure to grow the British economy and to create the jobs that will help people be more financially secure.

With the warning lights flashing over the global economy - Japan is in recession, the Eurozone is stagnating, and geopolitical risks rising - it is more important than ever that we stick with this plan.

The British economy is expected to grow by three per cent this year, the fastest growth of any major advanced economy in the world.

The growth we are seeing is also more balanced.

Business investment has risen by 27 per cent since 2010 and manufacturing is now growing faster than any other sector; with investment set to be up 11 per cent this year.

Corporation tax has been reduced from 28 per cent to 21 per cent today and will be 20 per cent later this year.

With more than two million private sector jobs and 760,000 more businesses since 2010, we are making progress but there is still plenty more to do.

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## CAN I CHARGE NEIGHBOUR TO USE MY EXTENSION WALL AS A PARTY WALL?

**Q:** I live in a terraced house. Five years ago I got planning permission to extend my kitchen with the extension wall against the neighbouring property being built right up to the boundary. Now my neighbours want to do the same and have asked whether they can use my wall as a party wall to save themselves some space and money.

In principle I don't have any objection but I am wondering whether I can charge them for the privilege and, if so, what sort of figure I should be asking for, for example, should I be looking at a percentage of the build cost?

**A:** If the wall of your extension is wholly on your side of the boundary line it will not be classed as a party wall, in which case your neighbour cannot use the provisions of Section 2 of the Party Wall etc. Act 1996 to lawfully make use of your wall. If this is the situation you are under no obligation to agree to their request.

Whilst you may decide to enter into a formal agreement to allow the wall of your extension to be enclosed for their benefit, you would need to get the agreement of your lender if your property is subject to a mortgage. They may insist on certain conditions if this affects their security.

Any compensation payable would be a matter of negotiation to reflect the premium your neighbour places upon their proposed extension and the potential detriment to your own property as a result of the enclosure. If however compensation was worked out using the formula under the Part Wall etc. Act 1996, it would be half of the current cost of building the section of the wall being enclosed.

Further information relating to this question is available from Nicholas Kennan, a Solicitor Advocate with GHP Legal.

For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit [www.ghplegal.com](http://www.ghplegal.com)

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# Message of Gospel is the one to follow

## Memories of UK before handover

### Enough of all this presents stupidity

IN her Christmas message, the Queen spoke of the need for reconciliation, defining it as a peaceful end to conflict, with people reaching out to one another, offering and looking for forgiveness.

Of necessity it is a two-way street, needing both an initiator and receiver and for reconciliation to happen, both parties must agree as to the problem and the solution.

The Queen spoke in temporal terms, but there is a greater, spiritual need and that is reconciliation with God. It transcends all other.

Everyone is born separated from God through sin and the Bible states that in our humanity we are all His enemies, with no desire to know Him or be reconciled to Him.

But He wants us back into the relationship He created us for, but which was lost in the Garden of Eden.

To redress the catastrophe, God took the initiative. He reached out to us through His Son. Our part is to respond and in responding we must agree with Him over the seriousness of our sin. "But God in Christ Jesus was reconciling the world unto Himself" (2 Cor. 5:19) is the message of the Gospel. Christ died in our place, the sinless one for the sinner, so that we may go free from God's judgment. Only through Christ's atoning death can we find peace with God.

There is no other way.  
**TONY SUTTON**  
Berriew

## Bible is still here today

THE Christian is content with life and grateful for daily blessings received. In addition there is an appreciation that it is one's duty to serve God.

The hope of eternal life is offered by God and not invented by dissatisfied persons.

We are mortal creatures. Many have ridiculed the Bible ever since it was written. That is their choice. But the Bible is still there, is still being fulfilled and still the manual for life to those who gladly receive it.

**PETER KEEN**  
Oswestry

THE BBC, the national press, both Houses of Westminster are going out of their way to vilify, smear and ridicule Ukup and all who propose voting for them.

It is a giant step away from the fair and democratic country we claim to be. We have now been members of the European Union for 41 years.

And logic dictates that because they are too young, 90 per cent of politicians, journalists and reporters have no knowledge of political life in Britain before Edward Heath handed us over, on a plate, to Brussels.

I am old enough to remember. And I can tell you now that we had 10 times the democracy we have today.

Our politicians listened to us then. Today they are arrogant and unaring.

Their priorities are maximum pay, pension and perks for minimum effort and workload.

The working man sees the corruption and nepotism in the European Union.

He sees the complete lack of fiscal management.

And he naturally assumes that some

sort of Mafia was in there from day one.

He asks why we continue to pay an obviously failed union £50 million every single day when we are not allowed to know where it goes and nobody bothers to tell him - now they have found someone who will.

The European Union is a thousand miles away from what we signed up to in 1973, Britain's influence at the top table is zero - we are the union's milch cow - no more - no less!

**BOB WYDELL**  
Oswestry

## Photograph shows rugby team line-up



John Powell of Oswestry emailed in this photo. He said: "I have found a negative of a rugby football team of 1935/1936. I don't know which or where but a reader might know if it is local."

## Aldi right to erect fence at car park

THE boss of Oswestry's Caxton Pharmacy is getting people to sign a petition complaining about the adjoining Aldi supermarket erecting a fence between their respective car parks.

As a regular user of both premises, I say he's got a nerve.

The Caxton Surgery car park was already overstretched by surgery patients before the pharmacy opened, exacerbating the problem of an inadequate, badly designed parking area. No wonder so many patients were grabbing the more convenient Aldi spaces just a few yards from the surgery. Why on earth should Aldi be expected to encourage this practice?

**SAM EVANS**  
Oswestry

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Readers' Letters,  
Oswestry Chronicle,  
Kelliey,  
Telford, TF1 5HU

### EMAIL

letters@oswestry  
chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## The drivers in town ignore rules of road

DRIVING through Welshpool on a Saturday night is what I imagine the frontier towns of the old Wild West might have been like, had they had motor vehicles.

Although the roads sport double yellow lines, numerous cars are parked on them right up to traffic lights, some facing the oncoming traffic, some on the pavement, a few with hazard lights flashing, which of course as everyone knows, makes dangerous illegal parking.

Should there, God forbid, be a fatal accident, I'm sure there will be yet another headline showing some hand wringing, pontificating official, and the matter will be swiftly forgotten.

**DAVID SURRY**, Middletown

## We have missed out on upgrade

GEORGE Osborne talks about the deal done with EE, Vodafone and O2 to deliver mobile coverage service to our rural areas. I wish I had faith that this will actually deliver for us in South West Shropshire.

Our EE signal is poor, O2 and Vodafone are frequently worse. We have numerous not spots and broadband is often dreadful or non-existent.

You would think that we would be first in line for these upgrades as much of Shropshire is better off than us. But sadly the first announcement on the improved mobile signal and its importance in delivering 4G does not include us - again.

**HEATHER KIDD**  
Shropshire Councillor  
Chirbury & Worthen

## Spread out the wealth

YOU can't multiply wealth by dividing it but you can and should distribute it fairly.

A system that allows five families to have as much wealth as the bottom 20 per cent is, in my opinion, ethically and morally wrong.

Regarding receiving without working - with the fast growing technology and increasing population the time is approaching when there won't be jobs for everyone, but those without work will still have to be supported and more importantly, still made to feel part of society not rejected as scroungers.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Accused denies sexual assaults

AN Oswestry man has pleaded not guilty to three counts of sexual assault. Paul Hulme, 31, of Cabin Lane, Oswestry, appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court to face the allegations.

The charges relate to the same alleged victim between a time period of August 1, 2013 and April 23, 2014.

Hulme spoke only to confirm his name.

He entered a not guilty plea for each charge.

Hulme will next appear at Shrewsbury Crown Court for a trial on August 13.

Robert Edwards stood for the prosecution and John Hedgecoe represented Hulme.

School to host fashion show

AN inaugural charity fashion show will be hosted by enterprising pupils at Moreton Hall School near Oswestry.

The girls from Moreton Enterprises are working in conjunction with design house Feathers of Italy to stage the show on February 7 at 7pm.

Set to be a stunning night, with beautiful fashion provided by Feathers of Italy and featuring Moreton Hall's models and an Italian themed three-course meal including wine, the show is open to the general public.

Ticket prices are £25; £200 for a table of 10. Contact Vicki Stearns at stearnsv@moretonhall.com for details.

# Audience flocking to enjoy pantomime fun at village

AN intriguing tale of smugglers and a stolen diamond is entertaining audiences young and old and from near and far as it is brought to life in this year's Rhydydroesau pantomime.

The popular panto group, which has been going for 36 years, has a rule never to perform the same pantomime twice and so this year's show - Moonfleet - is a departure from the more traditional fairy tale stories.

Cast member Jonathon Jones, from Aston, near Oswestry, said Moonfleet has been a popular children's story for many years.

He said the entertaining tale makes an excellent pantomime.

"It's quite a well-known storyline which has been used in schools quite a lot," Mr Jones said.

"We've always said we never do the same pantomime twice, which is why we do some that are slightly different, because we don't want to double up.

"There's plenty of booing and cheering and 'he's behind you' for the audience to join in with - possibly more than in traditional pantomimes.

"There's a lot of fun and laughter for all ages."

The cast includes performers as young as seven all the way up to grandparents, and Mr Jones said it was great to see the younger performers coming

By Pam Kingsley

back year after year to take part in the event.

He said: "We have quite a few young children and that's really who matters most.

"They're the ones that catch the eye on stage.

"The great thing about the panto is that they're then mixing with older children and adults and it gives them such a confidence boost it's great to see."

Performances of the pantomime started on January 10 and Mr Jones said all the shows so far have been sell-outs.

Moonfleet runs every weekend until February 7 with performances at 7.30pm in Rhydydroesau Village Hall.

Tickets cost £5 adults and £2.50 children and must be bought in advance from Park Avenue Stores, Mount Road, Oswestry, on (01691) 652524.



Jo Petford who is starring as a seagull in the Rhydydroesau pantomime helps spread the message

## 999 crews thanked for alarm response

FIREFIGHTERS have been thanked for their quick work in attending a fire alert at one of Oswestry's most historic buildings.

A gramophone in Oswestry town museum, which is sited in The Guildhall on Bailey Head, sparked a fire alarm after starting to smoke when it was left plugged in after the museum closed.

Firefighters spent two hours at the museum after smoke started billowing from it.

The fire alarms in the Guildhall alerted staff after smoke started to come from the machine at about 9.15pm on Tuesday last week.

Glenys Davies, Oswestry Town Council's facilities manager, said: "It was an electrical fault in the gramophone, which is part of one of the displays in the museum.

"There wasn't anyone in the building but the alarm goes straight through to the fire service, and then staff are alerted.

David Preston, Oswestry Town Council clerk, said there was "lots of smoke" but no damage was caused to the exhibition, which is on the second floor of the building, or to the Guildhall itself.

After the fire was put out he tweeted: "Big thanks to the guys at Oswestry Fire Station for sorting fire alarm tonight."

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## New style club will be set up in town

COMMUNITY-SPIRITED residents are being urged to join a new Rotary club in Oswestry - the third in the area.

Those setting up the Rotary Club of Oswestry Cambrian say it will be part of a new approach to make the international organisation more flexible and accessible.

Founder member Mike Lade said the club wanted to attract young business, professional and community-minded men and women.

"We are looking for people who can bring with them a range of personal and professional resources and skills that will strengthen the club's ability to successfully help communities at home and overseas," he said.

"Many people want to give something back to their communities but the old format of the clubs made it difficult for some to commit to regular meetings.

"This new club takes a much more flexible approach with a new vision to fit in with 21st century family and working life which will hopefully mean more people can join this fantastic organisation." The club is looking for men and women, 18 years and over from all professions, businesses and the local community. The first meeting of the new club will be at The Sweeney Hall Hotel, Morda, Oswestry on February 12 at 7pm for 7.30pm.

# Trout farm's help is a key ingredient for new cheese

Report by Sue Austin

**A TROUT farm near Oswestry has joined forces with another food producer to roll out a new cheese.**

The Chirk Trout Farm and Food Smokery agreed to help the Bodnant Welsh Food Centre produce a new, smoked, variety of its award winning, Aberwen cheese.

The cheese is smoked over oak and beech wood chips from the Ceiriog Valley. It has proved so popular in trials with shoppers, it is now available across the UK. The cheese is made and matured at Bodnant Welsh Food Centre in the Conwy Valley before being brought to Chirk.

## Hospital plan progressing

A SHORTLIST of options for a "radical transformation" of hospital services in Shropshire and Mid Wales has been unveiled.

The programme board of NHS Future Fit will meet next week to consider the future of The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford.

The region's health bosses say a shortlist has been narrowed down of six scenarios for transforming emergency, planned and urgent care that will also serve patients from Mid Wales.

A report said the programme board will also be asked to consider approving the "prototyping" of four initial urgent care centres (UCC) - one at Telford, one at Shrewsbury and two elsewhere in Shropshire.

The two further urgent care centres could be either in Oswestry, Whitchurch, Ludlow or Bridgnorth.

The report to go before health bosses next week says the move will allow the programme to learn and develop the UCC offer for local communities.

Around 15 wheels of Aberwen cheese, each weighing three kilos, are put into the hot smoker at Chirk by owner Richard Simpson, and left there in temperatures around 25°C for up to three days to take up the flavours. When they come out the cheeses have developed a rich tawny orange rind and a smoky flavour that's perfect for cheeseboards or using in cooking.

The cheeses are then returned to Bodnant, where they are packaged and sent out by specialist artisan cheese wholesalers to supply to retailers and restaurants around the UK.

Mr Simpson said the fish farm in the Glyn Ceiriog valley dates back to the 1890s and once supplied the nearby Chirk Castle.

He said: "We supply many restaurants, butchers and food companies - for example, our smoked fish is served up on the Orient Express. We started the smokery side a few years back.

"The Abermwg is a lovely cheese, and takes to the smoking process really well. It goes into our smokebox over a fire fed by a blend of mainly oak, ash and beech chips, from up the valley in Glyn Ceiriog, for the best flavour.

"The warm, smoky air gently dries and preserves the food."



Richard Simpson with Debbie Levisur, dairy sales and marketing at Bodnant

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sound survey to be held at site

OFFICIALS at a venue which was forced to stop taking live music bookings after complaints over noise levels have commissioned a sound survey.

The trustees of Llanfyllin Workhouse has approached a company from Cardiff to carry out the survey, which will look at internal and external events.

Ian Jones, one of the trustees, said: "The firm will conduct a comprehensive sound management plan and will liaise with Powys County Council's environmental protection team.

"It's going to cost a lot of money but our other option is none. We need music there. Eighty per cent of our income is music."

Complaints arose following September's Dirty Weekend Festival.

### Medieval clothes course invitation

A SEWING workshop to create medieval re-enactment clothing will be held on February 7 and 8 in Llanymynech, near Oswestry.

The workshop will be run by Sarah Thursfield, an expert on historical clothing, and will cover the making of cotes and surcoats.

The weekend will teach the basic principles and develop the outfit participants need.

The workshop costs £60 and will run from 11am to 4pm on both days.

Contact Sarah Thursfield on (01691) 839286 to book a place.

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Centre to host lantern show**

A MAGIC lantern show will be held at Rhiwiri-aeth Community Centre, near Llanfair Caereinion tomorrow (Friday).

The show will feature Robert Williams and Joanna Campling, from nearby Manafon, showing slides on various themes.

The show will be held at 7.30pm and admission will be £2 including light refreshments.

Meanwhile people in the area who want to get a bit more healthily will be able to lose a few pounds after Slimming World classes were launched in Llanfair Caereinion. The classes will be held at 7pm on Wednesdays at Caereinion Leisure Centre. For details call (01691) 870428.

**Residents told to wrap up pipes**

HOUSEHOLDERS in the Welshpool area are being urged to wrap up their pipes to prevent bursts as temperatures remain low.

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water said it wants people to protect their pipes to limit potential damage.

Welsh Water's chief operating officer Peter Perry said: "We always see an increase in calls in the winter regarding frozen pipes so now is the time to take action before the really cold weather hits. I'm sure the last thing any of our customers will want is to be without tap water due to frozen pipes."

# Exhibition recounts story of huge dam construction

Report by Dominic Robertson

**WELSHPOOL'S** Powysland Museum is hosting a new exhibition featuring the flooding and destruction of a village to create the Lake Vyrnwy Dam.

The exhibition runs until March 3, and is titled "Photographs of the old village of Llanwddyn and the construction of the Vyrnwy dam and lake".

Museum curator, Eva Bredsdorff, said the pictures provide a fascinating glimpse of the old village of Llanwddyn. The Lake Vyrnwy Dam took seven years to build and was completed in 1888. The stone built dam was the first of its kind in the world and cost £60,000 to build.

## Lamb trade talks success

A TRADE visit to promote Welsh lamb in Norway has been hailed a success.

The diplomatic visit, led by the Deputy Minister for Farming and Food, Rebecca Evans AM and Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales (HCC), included a series of meetings with decision makers from the Norwegian government, meat importers and retailers.

Gwyn Howells, Hybu Cig Cymru's chief executive, said: "The discussions held with key members of the Norwegian meat industry were informative and very productive."

"The visit was an important opportunity for us to boost the profile of Welsh Lamb, gain a further understanding of Norway's trade and market requirements and discuss current export arrangements which are currently governed by tariffs," Mr Howells added.

The village of Llanwddyn was flooded to create the dam with a new settlement built lower down the valley by the Liverpool Corporation for the people who lost their homes.

In total two chapels, three inns, 10 farm-houses, and 37 houses were all lost under the water.

Mrs Bredsdorff said: "In 2013 Powysland Museum was successful in acquiring a photographic album with some very old and interesting photos of the Vyrnwy Valley before and during construction of the dam."

"Lake Vyrnwy with its dam, tower and tunnel was built as a water reservoir for far-away Liverpool during the 1880s."

"The construction demanded the flooding and destruction of the small village of Llanwddyn, whose residents had to move to a new village nearby rebuilding their houses, their church and other amenities."

The museum curator added: "The photographs give a fascinating glimpse of the old village of Llanwddyn with many of its inhabitants – some dressed in their finest for the photographer."



Meg Heward from Powysland Museum takes a look at new exhibition

## New book service is available at library

LIBRARY members in Powys can now download free e-books and e-zines from their local library.

Powys County Council's Library Service says that residents can borrow e-books and e-zines from the comfort of their own home by using the free service.

E-book titles available include current best sellers, self-help books, classic fiction, cookery books and children's books.

The library service is also part of a Wales-wide subscription to provide library members free online access to around 250 popular magazines.

Councillor Graham Brown, Powys County Council's cabinet member for the library service, said: "This service gives our library members the flexibility to choose books and magazines at a time and place that suits them."

"This is a popular addition to our library service which is open to everyone – as long as they are a library member."

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MNA Media

## Property experts' positive message

RESIDENTIAL property sales will rise in Shropshire and Mid Wales in 2015, providing more opportunities for homeowners to consider buying or selling a home, according to agents.

Estate and land agents Morris, Marshall and Poole, which has offices in Shrewsbury, Oswestry and across Mid Wales, says the residential property market has been growing throughout 2014 and will continue to see a significant increase in properties available for first time and existing homeowners in 2015.

Andrew Turner, a partner in the firm, said: "We've been receiving a lot of enquiries from homeowners considering selling their homes or looking to let properties and it's a good sign that a large number of properties will be coming on to the market in Mid Wales and Shropshire over the coming months.

"There's a great deal of confidence in the market and many people who were considering selling in 2014 are now committing to doing something about it.

"It is not just larger properties. Many homeowners who were first time buyers are now looking to up-size as they have confidence in the economy, their jobs and prospects, bringing first time opportunities to those getting on to the ladder or looking to invest in property."

# Workshops aim to ensure crafting skills are not lost

TRADITIONAL skills such as knitting, crochet and sewing are in danger of being lost now they are not taught as much in schools, it has been claimed.

A business in Oswestry has launched a series of workshops to ensure people have the chance to learn such skills – and says they are already proving successful.

Emma Manford from The Pincushion in Oswestry hosted a crochet workshop recently and people of all ages spent a morning learning how to crochet before taking home their finished items.

Miss Manford, a 33-year-old former arts and textiles teacher, recently returned to her home town to open her wool shop in Beatrice Street.

"As well as the shop Pincushion has become popular for the workshops that we run," Miss Manford said.

"Some are more popular than others, for instance people are very keen to learn to knit and to sew.

"These skills don't seem to be taught in schools any more and if you don't have a relative that can teach you then it must be very difficult to try to teach yourself."

She said that learning the art of vintage dressmaking was also become popular again.

And she said learning how to read a sewing pat-

tern was also a popular theme for workshops and another which had been a success was showing people the art of making a memory bear.

"Memory bears are created from clothing, perhaps from a child's first clothes, or perhaps from the clothes from someone who has passed away," Miss Manford explained.

"You can send clothing away to companies who will make one for you.

"However I think it is quite a personal thing and so perhaps people would want to make their own memory bear."

Miss Manford said that events coming up in the future at Pincushion included a sewing bee competition and also a soft toy competition that was being organised in partnership with local schools.

More details are available from the Pincushion Facebook page.

Report by Sue Austin



Attending the crochet workshop were, from left, Julie Manford, Anne Shaw, Christina Nash, Alison Newell, Ruth Rowlands and Pincushions shopowner Emma Manford

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Volunteers plea by canal group

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to join a team of lock keepers to ensure canals keep flowing smoothly.

The Canal & River Trust is searching for recruits to look after the waterways by helping boaters through locks, welcoming visitors and keeping designated stretches neat and tidy.

Volunteers are sought by the Northern Shropshire Union Canal Volunteer Group, which meets on alternate Wednesdays, and the Montgomery and Llangollen Canal Volunteer Group, which meets on Fridays.

For further details contact volunteering team leader Glenn Young on 07775 118823 or details can also be found by emailing glenn.young@canal-rivertrust.org.uk

## Pair meet star Peter at awards

SINGER and television presenter Peter Andre has praised the efforts of two women who run slimming groups in Oswestry.

Mr Andre met Oswestry Slimming World group leaders Claire Morris and Jan Evans at the organisation's annual awards show.

The celebrity said the pair played an important role in helping people to change their lives.

Claire Morris runs a Slimming World group at The Whole Life Centre in Oswestry every Monday. Jan Evans runs a Slimming World group at The Memorial Hall, Oswestry, every Wednesday.

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## Councillor hopes to win election

OSWESTRY town councillor Duncan Kerr is to stand for the North Shropshire constituency seat at May's general election it has been announced.

Councillor Kerr will stand for the Green Party at the election.

He said: "In May the people of North Shropshire will have the opportunity to make a positive vote for a party that cares for our environment so would ban fracking, a party that will support rural families so will fight to keep A&E services in Shrewsbury and a party that serves everybody not the rich few."

Councillor Kerr will challenge current North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson for the seat.

## Nurses urged to return to work

SHROPSHIRE'S hospitals have launched a scheme to bring former nurses back to the profession.

It comes amid a national nursing shortage with health bosses in the county looking abroad to recruit enough nurses to fill vacancies and reduce the need to hire expensive agency staff.

Now a Return to Practice programme has been launched by the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust.

In November it was revealed the county's hospitals had spent more than £3 million on agency nurses since April.

A board meeting was told that 72 vacancies were being filled by temporary staff.

# Parish councillor calls for rail footbridge for village

**A VILLAGE split in two by a railway line desperately needs a footbridge to make life easier for residents, it has been claimed.**

Councillor Ron Jones of Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council says a new housing development being built to the west of Gobowen will mean even more families will have to cross the Shrewsbury to Chester rail line to get to the primary school and the library.

People also have to walk over the railway's level crossing – alongside the traffic – to reach the shops and post office in the centre of the village.

Councillor Jones wants a new footbridge to be a priority in Gobowen's place plan.

The key planning document is currently being drawn up.

The document will set out the village's wish list for the future.

It will be able to be used for bidding for funding and also in making representations for planning applications.

"We really do need a footbridge for pedestrians in Gobowen," Councillor Jones said.

"There used to be one at the railway station, one that was constructed when the Victorian station was built."

"But that was taken down many years ago."

He said that a new footbridge need not necessarily

## Report by Sue Austin

be near to the station and level crossing.

Councillor Jones said: "There are a few places where the bridge could be built."

"With the Wat's Meadow housing development going up we are going to have big increase in the number of people living in Gobowen."

The councillor added: "There will be lots of children having to get to the primary school on the other side of the crossing and I think a lot of parents will drive to school causing problems with parking at the beginning and end of the day."

"If we had a new footbridge then more people would walk their children to school."

Anyone who would like to put forward ideas for the Gobowen place plan should get in touch with the parish council by calling (01691) 682683 or by sending an email to parishclerksg@gmail.com

## Lorry lifted from canal after crash



A specialist recovery crew was called in to pull out the lorry from the Montgomery Canal

THIS was the scene as a massive crane recovered an articulated lorry from the Montgomery Canal in a three-hour operation.

The normally busy A483 trunk route had to be closed on Wednesday last week at Abermule, between Welshpool and Newtown, as the crane carefully pulled the lorry free from the water. The vehicle, carrying tonnes of sugar beet pellets, fell into the canal

two days earlier after it toppled over the crash barrier.

While the driver managed to climb out of his cab unhurt, his lorry was left half-submerged in the canal which runs alongside the main road. Following the crash initial attempts were made to rescue the lorry, but they proved unsuccessful.

But Wednesday's operation was more fruitful as the crane slowly but

surely pulled the vehicle back on to the bank. The operation was carried out in two stages, with the trailer pulled out first before the cab was slowly lifted clear of the water and placed back on the road.

It was then taken away by a recovery truck. The rescue was monitored by Natural Resources Wales, which was called in after an environmental alert was issued.

## TV's Bill lends his support to movie

A NEW wildlife company has been given a helping hand from one of Britain's best loved nature experts - and a sneak peek into his garden.

Wild Vision productions, set up by photographer Tim Mitchell from Oswestry and environmental expert and farmer Tris Pearce from Nesscliffe, has almost finished its first film which is aimed at giving schoolchildren an insight into British wildlife.

And when Bill Oddie heard about what the fledgling company was doing, he offered to get involved.

Tim and Tris travelled to London to meet the comedian and wildlife presenter and to film him for a message to the children on their film.

Mr Mitchell said: "He was brilliant. He was really interested in the project and said it was important that children should learn about our wildlife and what they could see all around them. He wants more children to get involved."

"His garden is not big but it is packed with birds and wildlife. It was an incredible experience."

Wild Vision's next project will look at all sides of the badger TB cull debate.

More details about the company including how to get involved with the TB film are available from <https://www.facebook.com/wildvisionproductions>.

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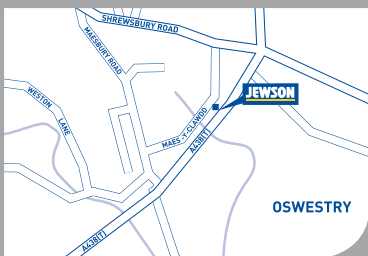


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## Rotary collects bikes for children

OSWESTRY Borderlands Rotary Club will hold a collection for old or unused bicycles in the town on Saturday.

Club members will be at the entrance to the Central Car Park, off Salop Road in Oswestry, between 10am and 2pm to accept donations of bicycles.

Judy Bristoll from the club said: "Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club is collecting used bicycles to send to schools in Africa, where the children may have to walk up to 10 miles before they start their lessons.

"They often arrive tired and late and can't stay for after school activities as they have to walk back home again before dark."

The Bikes4Africa scheme reconditions used bikes and transports them to African schools where they are loaned to needy students. When the child leaves school the bikes are refurbished locally and passed on to another child.

More information is available from Judy Bristoll on 07779648665 or at [www.borderlandrotary.co.uk](http://www.borderlandrotary.co.uk).

# New scout hut set to be a great asset for community

**A NEW £800,000 scout hut and community centre has been officially opened.**

Residents and local community figures attended the opening of The 1st Clives Own Welshpool Scout Headquarters and Community Centre, known as (COW-SHACC).

Centre manager Kylie Alder said they were thrilled to finally open the building, which was completed in October last year.

She said: "I am really pleased to officially open it, it has been a long time coming, it's been a lengthy process and it is fantastic to get it up, open, and on the way.

"Hopefully now we will get as many people as possible using the centre."

Mrs Alder said they have already secured a number of groups who wish to use the building on a regular basis, including Welshpool Bingo Society, classes from Great Fitness, the U3A, the Montgomeryshire branch of the Parkinson's UK, Welshpool Rugby Club's under eights, yoga classes and photography lessons.

The centre includes a function room capable of hosting 200 people with "theatre style seating" or 240 standing, a private meeting room, a fully equipped kitchen, a projector, Blu-ray player, free wifi, disabled facilities, toilets and a shower room.

It is also licensed for films, music, and to serve alcohol between 8pm and midnight.

**Report by Dominic Robertson**

She said: "So far it has been excellent. We have not had that much publicity, so far it has just been word of mouth and everyone that has used the centre has been more than happy with it and want to come back and use it again.

"It is a cut above anywhere else in Welshpool. There is not anywhere like it. We have got four rooms to hire and a fully kitted out kitchen which is also available to hire. In terms of facilities it has got everything, from a small meeting room to a function room that can cater for 200 people."

Mrs Alder said they wish to make the venue a "true community centre".

She said: "We would really like the whole community to get involved. We want the people of Welshpool to come and have a look and see what it is about so they can make use of it.

"It is a great facility and there is nothing else like it in the area. We want it to be a community based centre."

The ribbon to mark the opening of the centre was cut by cubs and scouts from the 1st Clives Own Welshpool Scout Group.

People attending were able to view the facilities and enjoy refreshments along with games and activities.

Anyone interested in booking the centre can contact Mrs Alder on (01938) 228472, 07434 944431, or by e-mailing [kylie@cowshacc.org.uk](mailto:kylie@cowshacc.org.uk)



Farrell McManus, Kim Negri, Jamie Hamer and James Green open the hut

## AM tells of canal opening benefits

REOPENING a section of canal near Welshpool would have "untold benefits" and provide a huge tourism boost to the region, it has been claimed.

Montgomeryshire AM Russell George is one of a number of people working on opening the Montgomery Canal between Welshpool and Arddleen.

Mr George said the Canal and River Trust will now put together an action plan to show what benefits could come from it, while he will raise the subject in the Welsh Assembly.

Mr George said: "I was delighted to recently bring together interested parties which were unanimous in their vision for the restoration of the Montgomery Canal. The restoration of the canal and the ambition to link it with the Shropshire Union Canal will have untold benefits for tourism and the local economy, not to mention the considerable benefits for tourism and the local economy, not to mention the considerable benefits for the health and wellbeing for local people."

## Charity's donation drive



Pam Townend from the Barnardos children's charity shop in Oswestry

IT'S that time of year when we are looking to subtly dispose of our unwanted Christmas presents.

And that means a boon for charity shops, which are expected to benefit to the tune of millions of pounds across the UK.

Volunteers across Shropshire and Mid Wales were expecting to welcome an influx of donations. Pam Townend, who volunteers at the Barnardos shop in Cross Street, Oswestry, said the charity has launched a new drive for new stock, targeting people

with presents they don't really want or need. Gerard Cousins, Barnardo's director of retail and trading, added: "By donating unwanted gifts, and other items to your local Barnardo's store, you can recycle the item and allow someone else to enjoy them whilst raising funds for a good cause.

"Barnardo's stores are dependent upon the public's kind donations and our profits go directly into our work with some of the UK's most vulnerable children and young people."

## Woman airlifted after A5 incident

THE A5 trunk road near Chirk was closed and a woman airlifted to hospital after she was found following concerns for her safety.

The Shropshire border road was closed at about 3.45pm on Friday, causing delays of over an hour while police dealt with the incident.

The busy main route to North Wales was shut between the Gledrid Island and the Halton Island, which contains a high road bridge across the River Ceirion.

A police spokesman said: "Concerns had been raised for the safety of a woman.

"The road was closed while the ambulance and police attended.

"The woman was taken away by air ambulance."

## New focus on safety

A BUILDING firm has launched a new initiative to keep children who live near its sites safe.

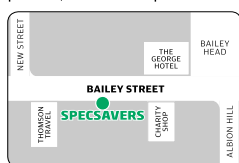
SJ Roberts Construction, which is based in Marton near Welshpool, has developed a programme of activities to deliver at schools near the building sites it is working on.

The firm has already linked up with schools in Orleton, near Ludlow, where it is building 14 homes.

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**Cancer fund is given £100 boost**

THE cast of a popular amateur pantomime has presented a cheque for £100 to the Stephen Powell Cancer Research Fund

The fund was set up by Stephen Powell, who was manager of Halls estate agent in Oswestry from 1998 until last year. He set up the fund following the diagnosis of his illness two years ago and helped raise £16,500 before he died on December 1.

Mr Powell was a keen supporter of the Rhydy-croesau Pantomime, which is performing smuggling story Moonfleet this year, and the cast members were pleased to be able to return that support with a donation to the fund in his memory.

Sian Edwards and Haley Jackson from Halls Estate Agents in Oswestry received the cheque.

**Editor's job for ex-Moreton girl**

A WOMAN who attended a school near Oswestry has been appointed an international money magazine's first female editor in 172 years.

Zanny Minton Beddoes has been appointed editor of the Economist. A graduate of both Oxford and Harvard, her earlier studies were at Moreton Hall School.

She returned to her Shropshire school last year as the guest speaker at the annual Moreton Hall Business Lunch. She described her years at Moreton as living in a "fostering, can-do environment".

# Council considering taking on meals on wheels work

Report by Sue Austin

**ATTEMPTS are being made to save a town's under-threat meals on wheels service.**

Llanfyllin Town Council is looking at ways of taking on the service once Powys County Council ends its involvement in March. The county council will stop running all of its meals and wheels services across Powys as part of budget cuts.

No decision has yet been made over whether the town council will assume control of providing meals for the elderly and vulnerable, but Councillor Peter Lewis – who sits on both authorities – said he hoped the volunteer-led service would continue.

## Job figures welcomed

JOBLESS figures have fallen again in Shropshire and Mid Wales.

Dole queues in Shropshire reached their lowest levels in more than nine years during December.

Shropshire's count of 2,409 – 1.3 per cent of the population – was the lowest since December 2005. And Powys saw its claimant count fall once again, with the 958 people signing on the fewest since records began. Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies said the latest results were positive news.

He said: "There has been a spectacular fall in unemployment here the past year or so and shows the UK's economy is growing strongly."

"Many businesses here in Montgomeryshire that I have visited in recent months are positive about the future."

"Even more welcome is an increase in the level of earnings ahead of the rate of inflation which is delivering a much needed boost to standards of living."

Town councillors have received a presentation from a county council officer on how the service works.

Councillor Lewis said he was extremely concerned about the situation.

He said: "There are a lot of elderly and vulnerable people in Llanfyllin and they rely on the meals-on-wheels service."

"It is a marvellous service, run by volunteers, and it really should continue."

"The Llwyn Teg care home has said it would continue to supply the meals if Llanfyllin Town Council took over responsibility and I am sure the volunteers would continue."

Councillor Lewis said he believed that more people would use the meals on wheels service as well if it was taken over and publicised.

He said: "There are definitely more people in Llanfyllin that would benefit from meals on wheels. The town council will now be looking at this carefully to see whether it can take over responsibility."

"We have to think about the insurance implications for example."

The town council is now to set up a meeting with the director responsible for social services at Powys County Council and will hold a further meeting in February. Councillor Lewis said.

## Bells tribute for publican



Philip Rothera was landlord of Selattyn's Cross Keys

PEALS of bells have been rung across Britain and beyond in memory of a publican.

Philip Rothera, 71, was the landlord of the Cross Keys at Selattyn near Oswestry for more than 25 years and was also a well known bellringer and golfer.

He lost a four-year battle with cancer on January 13. He leaves a widow, Hilda, two sons, three daughters and seven grandchildren.

His son Brian said he had been a tower captain in his home in Essex and had rung bells in churches across the world.

He said: "There have already been a dozen peals rung in his honour, including one in Perth, Australia, and one here in St Oswald's, Oswestry." Mr Rothera moved to the area from Essex to run a farm at Erbistock.

"When the farm closed and he took redundancy he decided to use it to move to the Cross Keys as beer and pubs had always been a passion. It was a new life for him and his new wife in Selattyn and one that they loved," Mr Rothera said.

## Terrorism in France sparking new fear

A JEWISH leader from Montgomery has spoken of a "new fear" that is troubling his community for the first time since the Second World War.

Mark Michaels says Shropshire and Mid Wales is and continues to be a haven from anti-Semitism.

But he spoke of his fear that there is a creeping threat to Jewish people, fuelled by recent events in France.

Mr Michaels, who runs the Judaism in South Shropshire Group, said: "Without a doubt, dinner table conversation over the summer and autumn has, for the first time in my memory, been about anti-Semitism and the future of the Jewish community in Britain."

"That the subject was even discussed is alarming. People's concerns I would say are at the highest level since the 1930s."

"I think part of it is because of the distance now from events in the 1930s and 1940s - as that gets further away the horror of it gets diluted in the minds of the general population."

"But in part I think it's the connection that's sometimes made between Jewish and the action of the government of the State of Israel." He said thankfully he had never encountered problems since he moved to the region with his wife and daughters 24 years ago.

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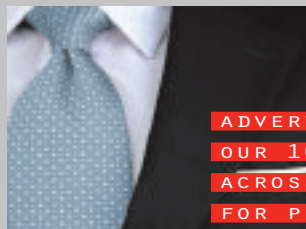
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Luciano Pavarotti's triumphant return to Llangollen in 1995, 40 years after his initial appearance at the festival

## Town resident voices concern over pay ruling

ELDERLY and vulnerable people in a mid Wales town seem to be losing out on cold weather payments, because the temperature is calculated 20 miles away, a resident has claimed.

Janet Hughes says the thermometer had registered below freezing every night for over a week at her home in Montgomery.

But when she asked about the government's special cold payment she was told that had not been the case at the Lake Vyrnwy weather station where readings for the area are taken.

Miss Hughes, from Sunnybank, is on employment support allowance and says she can not afford to use her expensive, oil heating.

Instead she has an electric heater to keep one room warm.

She contacted the Job Centre to ask whether she would be getting the top up cold weather payment.

Cold weather payments are given automatically to pensioners and those on certain benefits after a week of freezing temperatures.

She said: "I was told that the payment hadn't kicked in yet and when I said it had been below freezing in Montgomery, I was told that the payments for the area are based on figures collected at Lake Vyrnwy."

"Temperatures can change so much within just a few miles."

A spokesman for the Department of Work and Pensions said: "A cold weather payment is made when temperatures are an average of 0 degrees or below for seven consecutive days."

The payment is £25 for each seven day period.

## Trucker fined for spillage of load

A TRUCK driver has been fined after his load of chipboard fell off the back of his lorry near Oswestry, causing delays on the A5 trunk route.

Stephen Arthur Griffiths, 55, did not secure the boards, valued at £8,000, at the Kronospan factory in Chirk.

Flintshire Magistrates Court was told Griffiths, of Rhyl, was dismissed on his first day driving for the LE Jones haulage company at Ruthin following the spillage.

He claimed he had not realised that he had lost his load and continued driving.

After later examining the trailer, Griffiths decided to continue with the remainder of the load to Liverpool, got lost, and was stopped on the M6 motorway by police.

The court was told that the road was closed and it took two hours for a group of 15 workers from Kronospan to remove the 17 tonnes of chipboard.

Griffiths admitted carrying an insecure load likely to cause a danger, failing to stop and failing to report the accident on July 16.

He was given a £100 fine – £50 for the insecure load and £50 for failing to stop.

He received no separate penalty for failing to report the accident and was ordered to pay £105 in costs. Five penalty points were put on his licence.

Phillip Lloyd Jones, for Griffiths, said it was his client's case that he had received no instructions on his first day in the job but was told to pick up a trailer which was already loaded.

# Pavarotti's links to festival to be marked through exhibition

AN appeal has been launched to commemorate the double anniversaries of the legendary opera singer Luciano Pavarotti's visits to Llangollen.

This year's International Musical Eisteddfod in July will stage an exhibition to commemorate both the 60th anniversary of Pavarotti's first visit to the event and the 20th anniversary of his triumphant return in 1995.

The world's best known tenor visited the 1955 International Eisteddfod as a slim 19-year-old trainee teacher, part of the Chorus Rossini from Modena in northern Italy which that year won

Report by Sue Austin

the male choral competition. He said it was that visit that made him decide he wanted to be a professional singer.

Choirs now compete to be named Choir of the World and win the coveted, Pavarotti Trophy.

Eisteddfod musical director Eilir Owen Griffiths said: "He has been one of the towering giants of music in our time and it all began here at Llangollen."

"We have a special link with Pavarotti who graciously agreed to give his name to the Choir of the World Trophy."

"He never forgot his first visit here and attrib-

uted his decision to make music his life to that 1955 success."

Eisteddfod staff have been in touch with the Pavarotti Foundation in Italy to see if it will get involved with this year's exhibition.

Bosses at the international eisteddfod say they would also like to hear from people who may have memorabilia or their memories of Pavarotti's visits to the festival and who would be happy to loan them to the exhibition.

Anyone with memorabilia or memories of Pavarotti at the Eisteddfod should contact Alistair Syme at Ceidiog Communication on 01824 703073.

Alternatively he can be contacted by email at alistair@ceidiog.com

## Car claim is denied

A MAN has appeared in court to deny dangerous driving and possessing class A drugs.

Carl Nicholas, 31, of no fixed abode, appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court.

He pleaded not guilty to driving dangerously in a Volkswagen Golf on Gobowen Road in Oswestry and the B5070 on June 18 last year.

Nicholas also denied two other charges of being in possession of heroin and cocaine on the same date.

Judge Peter Barrie adjourned the case and remanded Nicholas in custody until February 19, when he will re-appear for a trial expected to last a day.

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The popularity of Valentine's Day continues to grow and many couples now see the day as a great

## Advertising Feature

opportunity to show each other how much they care for each other.

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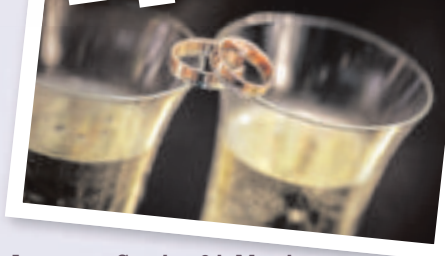
propose marriage. To give some great hints to those looking to tie the knot, The Venue at Park Hall near Oswestry will be staging its annual wedding fayre on Sunday, March 8 from 11am to 3pm. With exhibitors ranging from florists to photographers, dress makers, beauticians, bridal boutiques, cake makers, DJ and transportation there will be plenty of firms to share their professional ideas and experience. Admission is free. Call 01691 684840 for more details or email hannah.drakely@gototthevenue.com

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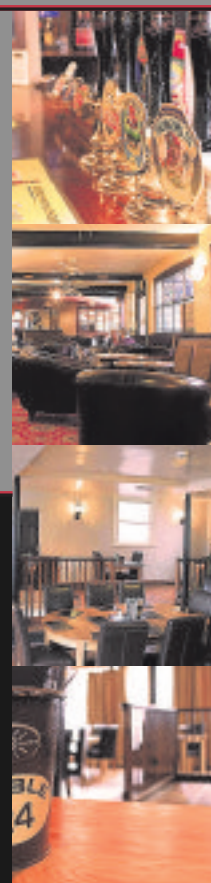


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18 Field close to castle used as launch site

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, January 29, 2015

A FIELD close to Chirk Castle has played an unusual role in proving just how tough a mobile phone case really is. Newly released pictures show how an iPhone 6 was launched 100,000ft up to the edge of space - and survived sub-zero temperatures and a bumpy crash landing without a single scratch.

The smartphone was wrapped in a "military grade" case and launched from a site near Chirk Castle.

Despite not having screen protection, it withstood 70mph winds, temperatures below -56C (-69F) and rotation speeds of 150 revolutions per minute.

Although the phone shut down during its flight due to the extreme temperatures, it was fully functional after the test. The stunt was undertaken by California-based Urban Armor Gear, which made the case.

The firm sent the iPhone into space attached to a rig that had two GoPro cameras, a GPS locator, a weather balloon to lift it to the intended 100,000ft altitude and a parachute to regulate the descent.

A video posted by CNET, shows that the rig lifting off from a field close to Chirk Castle on a grey, rainy day in November. It rapidly climbs above the rain clouds to emerge in bright sunshine and, as it gains altitude, so the temperature rapidly drops. Once it passes 101,000ft, the balloon is detached from the rig and the handset begins its fall back to earth.

It eventually lands, in a field 12 miles from its take-off point, with an almighty bump that breaks the rig - but the iPhone remains intact. The site at Chirk was chosen to make sure the flight rig would land near London and not in the sea. Organisers also said Chirk Castle provided easy access to launch and recover the flight rig, while the landscape provided beautiful scenery for the video.

Steve Armstrong, the co-founder of Urban Armor Gear, said after the test: "Our cases already meet military drop-test standards, but now we can officially say that they are space tested as well."

# Lifetime's ambition realised through release of bee movie



Pontfadog Primary School's Amber Boston and Bobby Llywarch learn about honey bees



Kirsty Williams and Gillian Lee from Gilly Films complete The Honey Bee DVD project

**A BEEKEEPER has realised a lifetime's ambition with the premiere of her debut short children's film exploring the world of the honey bee.**

The film has come from Kirsty Williams, from Pontfadog, near Chirk, and made its debut at her local primary school Ysgol Pontfadog.

Mrs Williams is one of very few breeders of the native British honey bee in the country and the film was recorded in the

**Report by Sue Austin**

Ceiriog Valley near Oswestry where she keeps 50 hives.

The film captures the entire life cycle of her native British honey bees - meticulously recorded over all four seasons of 2014.

A well-established beekeeper, mentor and active member of the South Clwyd Beekeepers Association, Mrs Williams has been keeping and breeding bees for more than 25 years,

producing native British honey bees from well-located colonies in Scotland as well as North Wales.

She said: "I am absolutely passionate about educating children and young people about the importance of the honey bee."

"I love going into schools to talk about my bees. The enthusiastic response I always get from young children, eager to learn absolutely everything about bees, motivated me to finally produce the film I have always wanted to make."

"It has long been my ambition to create a really first class educational resource about British honey bees for primary schools and the partnership with Menter a Busnes, combined with finding a fantastic independent film maker who shares my passion, has finally brought that dream to fruition. I couldn't be more thrilled with the result."

Former BBC documentary filmmaker, Gillian Lee from independent production company, Gilly Films, directed the film with funding and

advice from the Welsh independent economic development company Menter a Busnes.

The 28-minute DVD covers everything children need to know about the British honey bee - including why breeding the hardy and frugal British honey bee is integral to the survival and sustainability of bee colonies in Britain.

Teachers and educators can apply for a copy of The Honey Bee DVD by e-mailing thebritishbeecompany@gmail.com

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# ↑Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



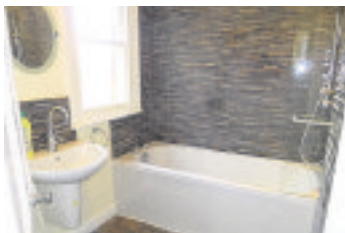
## Property has been recently refurbished

Recently refurbished and improved, 13 Edward Street, Oswestry is a three-bed-roomed semi-detached town house. It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £182,500.

With gas central heating it has an entrance hall with a timber finished floor and balustrade staircase off, a lounge with a bay window and cast iron fireplace with an open

grate, a dining room with a timber finished floor, a feature recess and small under-stairs store, a kitchen/breakfast room with modern kitchen units with a breakfast bar, built-in electric oven, gas hob and extractor hood and double doors to the rear garden. There is also a WC with a tiled floor, bedroom one with a bay window and cast iron fireplace, two further bedrooms and a bathroom with

a modern three piece suite with a bath and shower fitting, a radiator/towel rail and electric under-floor heating. Outside is a low level wall and a gate to the enclosed forecourt, a shared side pedestrian access and a paved yard area and rear garden with a seating area, lawn, border and two sheds. For further details call Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 or visit [www.morrismarshall.co.uk](http://www.morrismarshall.co.uk)



## Detached bungalow sited in village has great potential

With no upward chain, 2 Ashfield Drive in Llanymynech is a two bedroom detached bungalow requiring some upgrading and modernisation but offering great potential. The property is on the market with Town & Country for £125,000. The property comprises hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, sun room, two bedrooms, bathroom, and front and rear gardens. Outside there is parking for several cars. Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 for more details.



## Fully modernised property boasts a good sized garden

Unicorn Cottage on Middleton Road in Oswestry is a spacious four bedroomed fully modernised 19th century house with workshop and good sized garden. The property is on the market with JJ Dell & Co for £219,950. Accommodation includes lounge, dining area and breakfast kitchen. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a bathroom. The property is approached over a gated driveway providing ample parking. For more details contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 or 680212.



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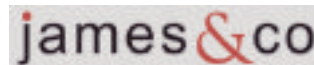
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## Impressive five bed contemporary home

A bespoke design and spacious five bedroom home near Welshpool offers a unique opportunity to buy a contemporary home with superb outlooks. Ochor y Bryn, Hope Leighton, was built in 2006 boasting sustainable and lifestyle features including underfloor heating. Agent, Clemmie Radcliffe of Balfours Property Professionals, says: "This is a beautiful and well thought out property." The property is two miles from Welshpool in unspoilt countryside. Ochor y Bryn is offered to the market with a guide of £750,000 for more information call Clemmie Radcliffe on 01743 353511.

**Balfours**  
property professionals



## Smart five bedroom house in a quiet area

Number 28 Bentley Drive, Oswestry, is on the market with Woodhead Estates. This modern five bedroom detached double fronted house is in a quiet location. It has three reception rooms, kitchen/ breakfast room, utility room, double glazing, gas central heating, two ensuite bedrooms, three bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, separate family bathroom, downstairs cloakroom, off road parking, detached double garage and an enclosed landscaped rear garden. Viewings are highly recommended to appreciate this property's location, accommodation and presentation. Offers in the region of £329,950 are being sought. Call 01691 680044.



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**Aston Way  
Oswestry** £144,995

- An excellent 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge
- Dining Room, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Private rear garden with a timber garden sheds and summerhouse
- Large driveway provides ample off-road parking.
- Double glazing, Gas C/H & cavity wall insulation. EPC Rating



**Smale Rise  
Oswestry** £122,495

- Deceptively spacious and well presented 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room
- 2 first floor Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Private rear garden and a good size driveway
- Double glazing and gas central heating
- EPC Rating



**Castle Street  
Oswestry** £93,500

- Deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Terraced House
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room
- Cellar, Kitchen, 2 good size Bedrooms
- Bathroom and Attic Room
- Private slabbed courtyard style garden
- Gas C/H and partial double glazing. EPC Rating



**Brydges Gate  
Llandrinio** £350,000

- A well appointed and attractive 4 Bedroom Detached House
- Situated in an enviable cul-de-sac location with views towards Llanymynech Rock, Rodney's Pillar and surrounding open countryside.
- Entrance Hallway, Cloakroom, Dining Room, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility Room, Conservatory,
- 4 Double Bedrooms, 2 En-Suite Bathrooms, Family bathroom and Double garage
- Lead lighted double glazed windows and oil central heating. EPC Rating
- Set in a generous plot with a large brick driveway and spacious double garage



**Jennings Road  
Oswestry** £130,000

- Superbly presented Terraced House overlooking Brynhafof recreational fields
- Retaining many original features
- Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom
- Enclosed rear courtyard style garden with storage shed
- Gas C/H and uPVC. D/G EPC Rating D



**Cottage Lane  
St Martins** £92,000

- A spacious 3 bedroom ground floor leasehold apartment
- Lounge, Inner Hallway with storage cupboards
- Kitchen/Dining Room, 3 Bedrooms & Bathroom
- Gas C/H & uPVC double glazing. EPC Rating
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Excellent views over open countryside.



**Albert Mews  
Oswestry** £104,995

- A substantial 2 Bedroom Terrace Property
- Situated within walking distance of Oswestry town centre.
- Entrance Hall leading into Kitchen, Living Room
- 2 first floor Bedrooms and Bathroom.
- Private garden to rear and parking
- Gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing. EPC Rating



**Llwyn Road  
Oswestry** £139,995

- Spacious & newly refurbished 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Newly fitted kitchen and combination boiler.
- Ent Hall, Living Rm, open plan Kitchen/ Dining Rm
- 3 Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom.
- Good size enclosed rear garden with patio
- Gas C/H and uPVC D/G. EPC Rating E



**Wingate Way  
Park Hall** £35,000

- A new build 3 bedroom semi-detached property available on a Help to Buy Shared Ownership basis with shares ranging from 25 - 75%.
- Ent Hall, WC, Fully fitted Kitchen, Lounge/ Dining rm
- 3 Bedrms & Bathrm. Large garden & off road parking. EPC 'B'
- Gas C/H & photo voltaic solar panel system.



**Maes Yr Eglwys  
Llanantffraid** £204,995

- Spacious 3 bedroom detached bungalow within a quiet cul-de-sac
- With established gardens & views to the rear
- Hallway, Lounge, Open plan Kitchen/Dining Rm
- Conservatory, Utility, 3 Beds (Master En-suite) & Bathrm
- Double Garage & ample off road parking
- Electric storage heaters & D/G. EPC Rating D

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**Oak Drive  
Oswestry** £174,995

- A well positioned Detached Residential House
- Recently rewired, re-carpeted & re-decorated
- Ent Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- New Fitted Kitchen, Utility/Store, Conservatory
- 3 Good Size Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Front and rear gardens, driveway
- Gas C/h and majority double glazing. EPC Rating E



**Aston Close  
Oswestry** £145,950

- A comfortably appointed Detached House
- Ent Hall, Sitting Rm, Dining Rm, recently fitted Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms & recently fitted Family Bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden, driveway parking and front garden
- D/G, Gas C/H, cavity wall insulation and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D



**Nant Lane  
Morda** £189,950

- Deceptively spacious Dormer Bungalow in an elevated position
- Hall, Lounge, Study, Kitchen, Bedrm 1
- Bedroom 2/Dining Rm, Ground Floor Bathrm
- 2 1st Floor Bedrms, adjoining garage & cloak
- The gardens extend around the property
- D/G, Gas C/H, cavity wall & roof insulation. EPC 'D'

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# Crops are blessed

He said the evening included community singer Kate Allan who had written additional words to an ancient tune. Local businesses Hartshorn Butchers, Honeysuckle and Stonehouse Brewery were involved in the wassailing evening.





Amy's achievements have been admired by many, and led her to being asked to open Adcote School's new sports hall



Amy smiled through much of her exhausting marathon challenge

# Amy to keep running



Amy was cheered on by family and friends during her challenge



Amy used quite a few pair of trainers during her challenge



Amy with Oswestry Mayor Gareth Jones and Radio Shropshire's James Bond



Amy met Paul Radcliffe at the Sports Personality of the Year awards

**IT'S been a remarkable last six months for Amy Hughes - and the fitness fanatic has revealed she is already planning more sporting challenges.**

After running 53 marathons in 53 consecutive days to set a world record, she went from someone known only by family and friends, to someone in the limelight in Shropshire and beyond.

She helped to switch on Oswestry's Christmas lights and opened Adcote School's new sports facilities and even made it into the Daily Telegraph's list of the Top 100 Britons of 2014.

Another high point was an invitation to attend the BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards where she was introduced to the 12,000 strong audience by fellow ultra runner Eddie Izzard.

Amy, from West Felton, was flabbergasted when the comedian took to the stage before the televised part of the event and asked her to get to her feet to receive acclaim from the guests.

Amy also met stars including marathon world record holder, Paula Radcliffe, Clare Balding and Helen Skelton from Blue Peter.

The fitness fanatic has already made plans for more running this year and the occasion will again have a Blue Peter flavour.

In April Amy will line up on the celebrity start line at the London Marathon, with Bar-

## Report by Sue Austin

ney Harwood, one of the presenters from Blue Peter.

But, not content with 'just' running the marathon, Amy will be running 200 miles - 40 miles a day - for the five days before the race on April 26.

She said: "I was asked to join the Blue Peter crew doing the London Marathon.

"It's an event I have done several times and I did say I wouldn't do it again.

"But to join up with Blue Peter was something I couldn't resist and to start on the celebrity line will be amazing.

"I also want to continue to inspire young people to take up running or sport."

Amy's remarkable, world record 53 marathon feat saw her running marathons in August and September, travelling the length and breadth of Britain.

Most importantly for Amy, she managed to raise the £53,000 she had set out to achieve for the Isabelle Lottie Foundation set up to help the families of children with or recovering from brain tumours.

Amy has vowed to carry on meeting new fitness challenges. She said: "So many people think that running is for older people which it definitely isn't."

"I would love to get more involved in encouraging young people to keep themselves fit."



Amy set a world record by running 53 marathons in 53 days

3

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all 9 letters.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

THE CLUES

762123 gives a sailor

435238 gives a child,

5998123 gives a servant.

Your time:

2

### X is to Y

1. Celebes is to Sulawesi as Ceylon is to ?  
BANGLADESH, IRAN, MYANMAR, SRI LANKA, THAILAND

2. Dafydd is to David as Emrys is to ?  
AMBROSE, EMMET, MEREDITH, MORGAN, PATRICK

3. Ringo Starr is to Pete Best as Paul McCartney is to ?  
BRIAN EPSTEIN, DEREK TAYLOR, NEIL ASPINALL, PETER BLAKE, STUART SUTCLIFFE

Your time:

3

### Mindbender






Sue had four more cookies than Janet, so she gave Janet a third of hers. Then Janet had more cookies than Sue, so she gave Sue two, leaving them with same amount of cookies each. How many cookies did Janet have to start with?

Your time:

2

### Mirror Image

Which of the four shapes below is an exact mirror image of the shape on the right?

  
A   
B   
C   
D 

Your time:

3

### Split Decision

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.

T	S	D	W	U	L	N	B	T	G
A	I			R	O			R	E
D	Z	E	I	S	B	C	R	A	O
E	O			E	A			U	D
R	S	F	E	S	N	F	E		

Your time:

1. 'One hundred ties and all for exactly thirty-five pounds,' said Sarah. 'That sounds good value, and we need new stock anyway.'

Mark smiled. 'Of course they were good value,' he told her. 'I picked them individually at three prices: 31p, 50p and 57p. We can mark them up for a good profit.'

How many had he bought at each price?

2. 'I can't make out this invoice for Kujus. It looks as if it's been in a puddle,' Bob told his partner. 'They were £117 each, but some of the figures are smudged.'

Leo looked. 'What a mess. Two digits of the amount are gone,' he commented. 'I make it two something zero something nine, a bit over twenty thousand pounds, and of course no p's, but the number they've shipped is quite illegible.' There were no extra charges, such as shipping costs or taxes.

But how many Kujus?

3. There were the makings of a real fight over the stamps Uncle Fred had sent them. 'It's not fair, you've got more than your share,' Jill protested. 'Give me two and we'll each have the same.'

'Not on your life. You're lucky to have what you've got,' her brother replied. 'Perhaps you should give me two, and then I'd have twice as many as you.'

That's how it started, but how many stamps had their uncle sent?

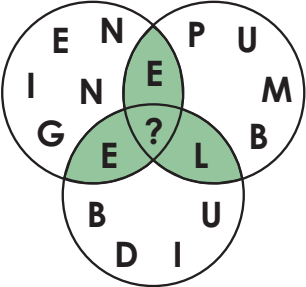
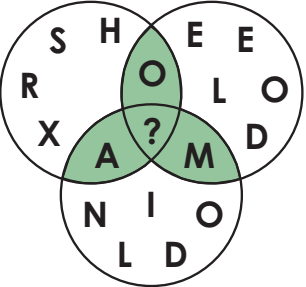
4			2		8			1
	2		7		9		5	
		5				9		
2	1			9			6	8
			8		4			
3	5			1			9	2
		6				1		
	3		1		6		4	
7			5		3			6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14				15		
16				17				18			19
20				21			22			23	24
			25			26				27	
28	29				30	31		32		33	
				34				35			
36		37			38			39			40
										41	
42				43			44		45		46
			47				48				
49	50			51		52		53		54	
						57				58	
59					60			61		62	
											67
63		64				65				66	
						68				69	
70				71			72		73	74	
								78			79
80	81			82			83			84	
85					86						
								87			

- CROSS**  
13 Speaks (5,5)  
14 Vehicle (7)  
15 Wound (6)  
16 Jams (6)  
17 Cheerful (7)  
18 Gun (5)  
19 Observe (4)  
20 Teach (5)  
21 Jar (5)  
22 Number (6)  
23 Drink to (5)  
28 Trips (7)  
30 Soon (7)  
33 Protest (9)  
36 Mooch (6)  
38 Prize (5)  
39 Put (5)  
40 Shout (6)  
42 Hold-up (5)  
43 Decree (7)  
44 Forced (6)  
46 Outside (4)
- DOWN**  
1 Laugh (6)  
2 Attractive (8)  
3 Stop (5)  
4 Scrap (7)  
5 Oppose (6)  
6 Prevents (5)  
7 Incentive (6)  
8 Ranted (7)  
9 Lucrative (10)  
10 Twist (5)  
11 Indicator (8)  
12 Bequeathed (4)  
24 Keeping (7)  
25 Opening (5)  
26 Dryness (7)  
27 Letting (7)  
29 Imprecise (5)  
31 Courage (5)  
32 Rounds (4)  
34 Motto (6)  
35 Just (4)  
37 Student (7)
- CROSSWORD**  
ACROSS: 13 Gives voice, 14 Tractor, 15 sets, 85 Amused, 86 One-time, 87 Grass skirt.  
DOWN: 80 Ajar, 82 Rates, 83 Mainline, 84 As-  
head Sacking, 70 Steel, 71 Titled, 73 Impel, 75  
Praise, 62 Cleaver, 63 Went round, 65 Flatter,  
53 Concern, 55 Burst, 59 Silent, 60 Close, 61  
tate, 44 Driver, 46 Peel, 49 Bean, 51 Regale,  
Award, 39 Place, 40 Scream, 42 Delay, 43 Dic-  
Fights, 30 Shortly, 33 Objection, 36 Porter, 38  
20 Train, 21 Grate, 22 Twenty, 23 Toast, 28  
Coiled, 16 Sicks, 17 Chipper, 18 Riffle, 19 Note.
- 9-letter word: MANIFESTO. Seaman.**  
infant, footman.  
Sutcliffe.  
Janet had eight cookies.  
Mindbender  
Mirror Image  
D is the mirror image.  
Split Decision >
- ACROSS**  
49 Vegetable (4)  
51 Entertain (6)  
53 Anxiety (7)  
55 Rupture (5)  
59 Quiet (6)  
60 Conclude (5)  
61 Chatter (5)  
62 Bright (6)  
63 Called on (4,5)  
65 Butter up (7)  
66 Dismissing (7)  
70 Harden (5)  
71 Cultivated (6)  
73 Oblige (5)  
75 Learned (5)  
80 Slightly open (4)  
82 Classifies (5)  
83 Show (7)  
84 Possessions (6)  
85 Diverted (6)  
86 Former (3-4)  
87 Garment (5,5)
- DOWN**  
41 Delight (7)  
45 Scoundrel (6)  
47 Speech (7)  
48 Vie (7)  
50 Obvious (7)  
52 Booty (4)  
54 Pursue (5)  
56 Back (5)  
57 Dropped (4)  
58 Particle (5)  
60 Certainty (10)  
64 Speculate (8)  
67 Memento (8)  
68 Sparkled (7)  
69 Many (7)  
72 Kingdom (6)  
74 Contrive (6)  
76 Yield (6)  
77 Business (5)  
78 Different (5)  
79 Flower (5)  
81 Spring (4)

### CIRCLEGRAM

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be rearranged to form words with a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

### ALPHAMUDDLE

Rearrange the letters to make five words that read both across and down. Five letters have been placed to start you off.

L	O	N	G	E
S	T	E	A	D
L	E	T	A	S
S	C	A	R	E
P	R	O	N	A

	A			
			R	
N				
				T
		S		


**Sudoku**  
4 7 9 2 5 8 6 3 1  
1 2 3 7 6 9 8 5 4  
6 8 5 4 3 1 9 2 7  
2 1 4 3 9 5 7 6 8  
9 6 7 8 2 4 3 1 5  
3 5 8 6 1 7 4 9 2  
8 3 2 1 7 6 5 4 9  
7 9 1 5 4 3 2 8 6

**Impossipuzzles**  
DOWN: 1 Titter, 2 Fetching, 3 Avest, 4 Discard, 5 Resist, 6 Slops, 7 Carrot, 8 Stormed, 9 Profitable, 10 Screw, 11 Signpost, 12 Left, 24 Loose, 31 Heart, 32 Laps, 34 Saying, 35 Fair, 37 Trainee, 41 Rapture, 45 Varlet, 47 Oration, 48 Complete, 50 Evident, 52 Loot, 54 Chase, 56 Stern, 57 Fell, 58 Scrap, 60 Conviction, 64 Theorise, 67 Keepsake, 68 Flashing, 69 Several, 72 Domain, 74 Manage, 76 Return, 77 Trade, 78 Other, 79 Daisy, 81 Jump.

**Alphamuddle**  
Panel, Agora, Nodes, Erect, Lasts.

**Sudoku**  
S W U N G  
I R R  
Z E B R A  
D A D  
S E N S E

**9-letter word: MANIFESTO. Seaman.**  
infant, footman.  
Sutcliffe.  
Janet had eight cookies.  
Mindbender  
Mirror Image  
D is the mirror image.  
Split Decision >



**Casualty**  
9.20pm  
A single father and his two teenage children are brought in after a car crash, but the dad only seems concerned about his daughter, leaving his son feeling neglected. Tess returns to the department and Honey is surprised when Ethan gives her the cold shoulder – especially after they had been getting so close.



**QI**  
10pm  
Second of two compilations of highlights from the 12th series of the quiz with a difference, hosted by Stephen Fry. Guests including Suggs, Sue Perkins and Jeremy Clarkson joined regular panellist Alan Davies to answer questions based on subjects beginning with the letter L. Last in the series.



**Take Me Out**  
8.05pm  
Dancer Rob from London, barman Ryan from Leicester, security guard Karl from Dublin and busker Jamie from Kent vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on securing a date. Host Paddy McGuinness monitors their progress and reviews the dating action from last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandos.



**The Restoration Man**  
7pm  
After living in a bungalow for 25 years, Yorkshire couple Carol and Majid Nadry embark on an ambitious midlife adventure – buying a water tower to turn into a five-storey home. George Clarke encourages the couple to see their daunting challenge through when they are hit with a number of problems.



**Law & Order**  
10.55pm  
Lupo and Green embark on their first official case together, investigating the kidnapping of a mother and daughter which occurred during a blackout. When it appears the abductor knew about the power cut in advance, the possibility of the manipulation of energy is called into question. Previously seen on 5USA.

## BBC1

6.00 **Breakfast.**  
10.00 **Saturday Kitchen Live.** James Martin is joined by chefs Judy Joo and Michael Caines, and wine expert Olly Smith selects drinks to accompany dishes cooked in the studio.  
11.30 **James Martin: Home Comforts.** The chef makes fresh dishes on a barbecue.  
12.00 **BBC News;** Weather.  
12.10 **Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's matches.  
12.50 **Saturday Sportsday.** A look ahead at the day's events.  
1.00 **Bargain Hunt.** Tim Wonnacott visits Grimsthorpe, Lincolnshire, where items include a Lalique glass ornament and a Mauchlinware egg timer. He also visits Grimsthorpe Castle. (R)  
2.00 **Escape to the Country.** Alistair Appleton helps a couple of air stewards find a property in Suffolk with a garden large enough to accommodate a marquee for their wedding day. (R)  
3.00 **Homes Under the Hammer.** Properties in Staffordshire, east London and Derby. (R)  
4.00 **Final Score.** Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of this afternoon's results from the Premier League, Football League and Scotland.  
5.20 **Pointless Celebrities.** Musicians take to the podiums in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz. (R)  
6.10 **BBC News;** Regional News; Weather.  
6.30 **Now You See It.** The best and worst of the magic world, featuring a man who disguises himself as an armchair and strange happenings in a chip shop, as well as a few tricks going wrong. Originally scheduled for January 24.  
7.00 **The Voice UK.** The fourth round of the chair-spinning singing contest, with coaches Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson and Rita Ora aiming to bolster their teams.  
8.30 **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Shane Richie hosts the game show. Including the lottery draws, with Gabby Roslin.  
9.20 **Casualty.** Lofy helps a troubled family reconnect, Big Mac's money worries lead him to a pawn shop – where he encounters a man who has been stabbed – and Connie throws herself into work.  
10.10 **BBC News;** Weather.  
10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Chelsea v Manchester City at Stamford Bridge and Liverpool v West Ham United at Anfield; **National Lottery Update.**  
12.00 **The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Cardiff City v Derby County.  
1.20 **FILM: Stark Raving Mad (2002).** A man saddled with his late brother's debts comes up with a scheme to rob a bank – but nothing goes according to plan. Crime comedy, starring Seann William Scott and Timm Sharp.  
2.55 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**  
3.00 **BBC News.**

## BBC2

6.45 **FILM: Bitter Victory (1957).** Second World War drama, with Richard Burton and Curt Jurgens.  
8.25 **Live Tennis: Australian Open Women's Final.** Sue Barker presents coverage from Melbourne Park, where the title will be decided in the first Grand Slam tournament of the year. With commentary by Andrew Castle and John Lloyd. Subsequent programmes subject to change.  
11.30 **Animal Park.** There are dramatic developments at Wolf Wood. (R)  
12.00 **James Martin: Home Comforts.** Simple dishes made using exotic ingredients. (R)  
12.45 **Hollywood Greats.** Profile of Kirk Douglas. (R)  
1.25 **FILM: Lust for Life (1956).** Biopic of Van Gogh, exploring the painter's struggles with mental illness as he obsessively devotes himself to his art. Starring Kirk Douglas and an Oscar-winning Anthony Quinn.  
3.25 **FILM: Hidalgo (2004).** A pony express rider enters in a 3,000-mile horse race across the Arabian desert, only to be drawn into political conflict. Period adventure, with Viggo Mortensen and Omar Sharif. Edited for daytime broadcast.  
5.30 **The Great British Sewing Bee – Class of 2014.** Last year's contestants reflect on their experiences on the show. (R)  
6.30 **Flog It!** Kate Bateman and David Barby search for antiques that can be sold for a profit in Colchester, Essex, where finds include boxes of old toy cars and an art deco item.  
7.30 **Attenborough's Paradise Birds.** David Attenborough examines the appeal of birds of paradise, investigating the myths surrounding their discovery, their extraordinary behaviour and the science behind their beauty. (R)  
8.30 **Dad's Army.** The platoon takes part in an exercise with the regular army and everything goes well – until Mainwaring assumes the role of an enemy agent on the run. (R)  
9.00 **The Secret World of Lewis Carroll.** Martha Kearney explores the life and work of the author of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, and examines what lies behind the book's enduring appeal to adults and children alike.  
10.00 **QI.** Second of two compilations of highlights from the L series of the quiz, which featured guests including Susan Calman Jason Manford and the Rev Richard Coles. Last in the series.  
10.30 **FILM: Ginger & Rosa (2012).** Premiere. Two teenage girls seek meaning in their lives as the Cuban missile crisis places the world on the brink of nuclear war. Drama, starring Elle Fanning and Alice Englert.  
11.55 **FILM: The Tempest (2010).** A sorceress plans revenge on her brother for sending her into exile when a storm strands him on her island home. Shakespearean fantasy, starring Helen Mirren and Felicity Jones.  
1.40 **This is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

## ITV

6.00 **CITV: Bottom Kocker Street 6.10** Bottom Kocker Street **6.20** Bottom Kocker Street **6.35** Dino Dan **6.45** Dino Dan **7.00** Animals **7.10** Sooty **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story  
7.30 **Scrambled!: Scrambled!** Two-hours of children's fun.  
7.35 **Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy. (R)  
7.50 **Scrambled!: Adventure Time.**  
8.30 **Scrambled!: Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster. (R)  
8.50 **Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash.** Animation based on the superhero character.  
9.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)  
10.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)  
11.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)  
12.30 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.  
12.35 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)  
1.40 **The Undriveables.** A woman who struggles with reverse parking. (R)  
2.10 **Who's Doing the Dishes?** Jo Wood plays host. (R)  
3.10 **Doc Martin.** Louisa applies for a job at the school. (R)  
4.10 **Big Star's Little Star.** With Sam Bailey, Shane Lynch and Alison Hammond. (R)  
5.10 **ITV News Central;** Weather.  
5.20 **ITV News and Weather.**  
5.30 **You've Been Framed! A-Z of Animals.** An alphabetical look at videos from the animal kingdom. (R)  
6.30 **Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes.** A sales assistant, a senior manager of a tanning salon chain, a children's singing tutor, a mother and a student impersonate famous singers as they vie for a place in the final.  
7.30 **Planet's Got Talent.** Featuring a group of flexible Chinese men, a six-year-old dancer, a cowboy with impressive rope skills and a contestant who extinguishes candles by squirting water from his eyes.  
8.05 **Take Me Out.** A dancer from London, a barman from Leicester, a security guard from Dublin and a busker from Kent vie for the attentions of 30 single women. Paddy McGuinness hosts the dating show.  
9.20 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined by EastEnders star Danny Dyer, Great British Bake Off duo Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins, veteran actress Diana Rigg (Game of Thrones) and Benidorm's Johnny Vegas.  
10.25 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.  
10.35 **FILM: The Shawshank Redemption (1994).** A banker wrongly jailed for his wife's murder forms an extraordinary friendship with a fellow inmate over the course of their sentences. Drama, with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman.  
1.10 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.  
3.00 **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R)  
3.40 **ITV Nightscreen.**

## Channel 4

6.00 **Trans World Sport.** Including Double Dutch rope skipping action from Japan.  
7.00 **Killarney Adventure Race.** Action from the one-day multi-adventure race.  
7.25 **Itera Expedition Race.** Extreme multi-sports adventure.  
7.55 **The Morning Line.** Alice Plunkett and guests are at Sandown Park.  
9.00 **The King of Queens.** The couple decide to be charitable. (R)  
9.30 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Frank and Marie are evicted. (R)  
10.00 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray spices up his sex life. (R)  
10.30 **Frasier.** The shrink tackles a bully. (R)  
11.00 **Frasier.** Part one of two. Daphne's mother comes to stay. (R)  
11.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard vows to be more confident around women. (R)  
12.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** The friends cross paths again with Wil Wheaton. (R)  
12.25 **Speed with Guy Martin.** An attempt to build the world's fastest soapbox racer. Last in the series. (R)  
1.30 **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Sandown Park, Ffos Las and Wetherby.  
4.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Dinner-party hosts do battle in King's Lynn, Norfolk. (R)  
5.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard and Sheldon go through an adjustment period. (R)  
5.30 **The Simpsons.** Lisa persuades Homer to let her visit the museum – but takes the wrong bus and becomes lost in an unfamiliar part of Springfield. (R)  
6.00 **The Simpsons.** Bart tracks down a former student after Groundskeeper Willie reveals that he pulled off the "ultimate prank", and Marge starts shopping at a natural foods store. (R)  
6.30 **Channel 4 News.**  
7.00 **The Restoration Man.** After living in a bungalow for 25 years, a Yorkshire couple aim to transform a water tower into a five-storey home, encountering devastating legal problems along the way. (R)  
8.00 **The World's Weirdest Weather.** New series. Bizarre climatic conditions, including a vast cave system with its own weather, plus glow-in-the-dark waves, an upside-down rainbow and "spider lightning".  
9.00 **FILM: Ted (2012).** Premiere. A boy's magical living teddy remains his friend into adulthood, creating tension with his girlfriend. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg, with the voice of Seth MacFarlane.  
11.10 **FILM: Your Highness (2011).** Two princes – one a dashing hero, one a selfish oaf – go on a quest to rescue a princess from an evil wizard. Fantasy comedy, with Danny McBride, James Franco and Natalie Portman.  
1.05 **The Last Leg.** With Call the Midwife star Miranda Hart and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg. (R)  
2.00 **FILM: Prizzi's Honor (1985).** Two Mafia killers fall in love and get married – then discover their next assignments involve mutual assassination. Black comedy drama, starring Jack Nicholson and Kathleen Turner.  
4.10 **Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. (R)

## Channel 5

6.00 **Milkshake!: Peppa Pig 6.05** Roary the Racing Car **6.15** Angelina Ballerina **6.30** Pip Ahoy! **6.40** The Mr Men Show **6.55** Chloe's Closet **7.05** Milkshake! Monkey **7.10** Olly the Little White Van **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas **7.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures **7.30** Make Way for Noddy **7.45** Paw Patrol **7.55** Little Princess **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky **8.25** Wanda and the Alien **8.40** Zack and Quack **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **9.15** Jelly Jamm **9.30** LazyTown  
10.00 **SpongeBob SquarePants.**  
10.35 **Access.**  
10.45 **Ice Road Truckers.** (R)  
11.45 **Ice Road Truckers.** (R)  
12.40 **Ice Road Truckers.** (R)  
1.40 **Ice Road Truckers.** (R)  
2.40 **FILM: Columbo: A Friend in Deed (1974).** Crime drama, starring Peter Falk.  
4.35 **FILM: Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind (1975).** Crime drama, starring Peter Falk.  
6.10 **NCIS.** A commander who knows the location of a shipment of nuclear fuel rods is abducted, and the team is called in to try to identify the kidnapper. Guest starring Zac Efron. (R)  
7.00 **NCIS.** The wives of two marines are murdered, and although Gibbs suspects they were victims of domestic violence, evidence suggests the case may involve professional killers. (R)  
7.55 **NCIS.** The team suspects a desperate marine may have faked his own death with the help of a friend and blown up an ambulance in a botched attempt to cover all traces of the subterfuge. (R)  
8.50 **5 News Weekend.**  
9.00 **Celebrity Big Brother.** Catching up with the celebrities as they react to Friday night's eviction, revealing how the departure has affected the remaining contestants.  
10.00 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** The family of the owner of a medical marijuana dispensary are held hostage, but the investigation is made harder when a potential witness is killed by a security guard.  
10.55 **Law & Order.** Lupo and Green embark on their first official case together – investigating a kidnapping that involved the murder of a housekeeper and occurred during a city-wide blackout. Previously seen on 5USA.  
11.50 **Criminals: Caught on Camera.** Nick Wallis discovers how CCTV and technological advances are helping to tackle criminals exhibiting a complete disregard for the safety of others while at the wheel of a vehicle. (R)  
12.15 **SuperCasino.**  
3.10 **Celebrity Big Brother.** (R)  
4.00 **House Doctor.** (R)  
4.25 **Make It Big.** (R)  
4.50 **Make It Big.** (R)  
5.15 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)  
5.20 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)  
5.30 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)  
5.40 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)  
5.50 **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)



### Call the Midwife

8pm

Poplar is gripped by an outbreak of dysentery, but that's the least of mum-to-be Marie Amos's worries when her husband Tony is arrested for gross indecency in the gentlemen's toilets. Nurse Crane meets Dolores McEvoy, a pregnant Irish woman who is clearly malnourished.



### Dragons' Den

9pm

Kelly Hoppen receives an unusual phone call from outside the Den, a mother and daughter pitch their waterproof products for children, and a trio of breakdancers introduce the Dragons to some innovative earphones. The panellists are also serenaded by a group of princesses.



### Get Your Act Together

7pm

More celebrities compete for a place in the final, including Phil Tufnell, appearing with an acrobatic basketball team, and James Bolam mentored by singer Michael Ball. Host Stephen Mulhern follows the rehearsals leading up to the contestants' big performances as they compete for a place in the final.



### Our Guy in India

9pm

Guy Martin takes a 1,000-mile journey across India to compete in a race called Rider Mania, the world's largest gathering of Royal Enfield motorbikes. Along the way, the daredevil rides with a 50-strong biker gang, visits Asia's biggest truck yard and clammers 833ft to the top of India's tallest building.



### Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge

10.40am

Actor Robson Green journeys to Mozambique to take on some of the African country's best anglers, including Duarte Rato, who has an international reputation for catching huge fish in the tropical waters of the Bazaruto Archipelago.

## BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**  
**7.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Chelsea v Manchester City at Stamford Bridge and Liverpool v West Ham United at Anfield. (R)  
**9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.**  
**10.00 The Big Questions.** Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions on topical issues live from Hutchesons' Grammar School in Glasgow.  
**11.00 Sunday Politics.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil.  
**12.15 MOTD2 Extra.** With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team.  
**1.00 BBC News; Weather.**  
**1.15 Bargain Hunt.** Two teams compete at Ardingly Antiques Fair in West Sussex, led by Anita Manning and Catherine Southon. Plus, Tim Wonnacott visits Leeds Castle in Kent. (R)  
**2.15 Escape to the Country.** A couple seek a country home in Suffolk. (R)  
**3.00 Eat Well for Less?** MasterChef judge Gregg Wallace and greengrocer Chris Bavin set out to help families with their food shopping, showing them how to save money on their current bill. (R)  
**4.00 Your Home in Their Hands.** Amateur interior designers come to the rescue of a family who face a style stalemate, and a couple who fear turning a masculine chapel into a feminine abode. Returning from a break.  
**5.00 Songs of Praise.** David Grant explores the changing attitudes toward mental illness.  
**5.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**  
**6.00 Animals in Love.** Part one of two. Liz Bonnin explores animal relationships, finding out how they meet, mate and form relationships, and asking whether they can fall in love.  
**7.00 Countryfile.** A visit to West Yorkshire, featuring a trail of stones with a poetic theme, a volunteer-run farm and the story of an 18th-century counterfeit scam. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.  
**8.00 Call the Midwife.** A mum-to-be is distraught when her husband is arrested for gross indecency in the gents, while a pregnant Irish woman in need of nourishment goes missing.  
**9.00 Last Tango in Halifax.** Gillian's wedding day arrives, but the bride is suffering a serious case of cold feet, leaving Caroline to get to the bottom of her step-sister's reluctance. Last in the series.  
**10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**  
**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Arsenal v Aston Villa and Southampton v Swansea City. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League matches at the Emirates Stadium and St Mary's Stadium respectively.  
**11.30 The Apprentice USA.** Surviving candidates Meat Loaf, Marlee Matlin, La Toya Jackson and others are tasked with creating and selling their own works of art.  
**12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.**  
**12.55 BBC News.**

## BBC2

- 6.00 The Football League Show.** Highlights of the latest games in the Championship, League One and League Two. (R)  
**7.20 Countryfile.** The team follows in Robert Burns' footsteps in the Scottish Highlands. (R)  
**8.15 Live Tennis: Australian Open Men's Final.** Sue Barker presents all the action from Melbourne Park, where the first Grand Slam event of the year reaches its conclusion. Subsequent programmes subject to change.  
**12.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Highlights of the series. (R)  
**1.30 James Martin: Home Comforts.** The chef cooks in his own kitchen. (R)  
**2.00 Food & Drink.** The unsung heroes of the British larder. (R)  
**2.30 Joan Fontaine: Talking Pictures.** An insight into the life of the actress. (R)  
**3.00 FILM: Ivanhoe (1952).** A knight battles to rescue Richard the Lionheart from imprisonment and stop scheming Prince John taking the throne. Medieval adventure, with Robert Taylor and Elizabeth Taylor.  
**4.45 Flog It! Trade Secrets.** Items with connections to famous people.  
**5.15 Ski Sunday.** The World Cup slalom in Schladming, Austria.  
**6.00 The Coffee Trail with Simon Reeve.** The adventurer examines the coffee industry in Vietnam, meeting some of the millions of people involved in picking, packing and transporting it to the UK. (R)  
**7.00 The Motorway: Life in the Fast Lane.** Documentary series going behind the scenes of one of the busiest stretches of motorway in Britain, where the M6 joins up with four other major routes. (R)  
**8.00 Top Gear.** Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May go on a road trip across Australia's Northern Territory in GT cars. Kiefer Sutherland takes to the track in the Reasonably Priced Car.  
**9.00 Dragons' Den.** A mother and daughter pitch waterproof products for children, while a trio of breakdancers introduce the Dragons to some innovative earphones. Evan Davis presents.  
**10.00 FILM: True Grit (2010).** A farm girl recruits a hard-drinking, one-eyed marshal to help her track down the man who killed her father. The Coen brothers' Western, with Jeff Bridges and Hailee Steinfeld.  
**11.45 FILM: New Jack City (1991).** Two maverick cops set out to topple a drugs baron who has transformed an apartment block into a seemingly impenetrable fortress. Action thriller, with Wesley Snipes and Ice-T.  
**1.20 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** The team explores the Scottish Highlands, from the banks of Loch Ness and the Cairngorms to Killiecrankie, meeting poets, musicians and photographers inspired by Robert Burns. (R)  
**2.15 Sign Zone: Holby City.** (R)  
**3.15 This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

## ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street 6.20 Bottom Knockers Street 6.35 Dino Dan 6.45 Dino Dan 7.00 Animals 7.10 Sooty 7.25 Signed Stories: Share a Story**  
**7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.  
**7.35 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy. (R)  
**7.50 Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man.** Superhero adventures.  
**8.30 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster. (R)  
**8.50 Scrambled!: Deadline Stories.** Chilling tales for younger viewers. (R)  
**9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)  
**10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)  
**11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)  
**12.30 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**  
**12.40 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes.** Five more contestants impersonate famous singers. (R)  
**1.40 Off Their Rockers.** Senior citizens play pranks on the public. (R)  
**2.10 Mel & Sue's Best Bits.** Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins present highlights from this week's shows.  
**3.15 Tipping Point.** Quiz show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)  
**4.15 FILM: The Spy Who Loved Me (1977).** James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.  
**6.35 ITV News Central; Weather.**  
**6.45 ITV News and Weather.**  
**7.00 Get Your Act Together.** More celebrities compete for a place in the final, including Phil Tufnell, appearing with an acrobatic basketball team, and James Bolam mentored by singer Michael Ball.  
**8.15 All Star Family Fortunes.** TV presenter Helen Skelton and Irish crooner Daniel O'Donnell team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity. Vernon Kay hosts.  
**9.00 Mr Selfridge.** Harry pursues a new charitable project, Crabb faces a professional dilemma, a major fashion event proves a challenge for the staff and Miss Mardle decides to make a fresh start.  
**10.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**  
**10.15 Perspectives – The Man in the Hat: Rene Magritte with Will Young.** A fan of Magritte since the age of 15, singer and actor Will Young travels to the surrealist artist's native Belgium to explore his life, work and legacy. (R)  
**11.15 LV= Cup Rugby Union.** Highlights of the latest pool matches, which included Harlequins v Bath, Gloucester v Ospreys and Wasps v Cardiff Blues.  
**12.10 The Store.** Home shopping.  
**2.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** The host takes his successful talk show stateside. (R)  
**3.15 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.  
**5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

## Channel 4

- 6.20 NFL: Rush Zone.** Animation about a young American football fan.  
**6.45 How I Met Your Mother.** Lily's journey home from Seattle is disrupted by a blizzard. (R)  
**7.10 How I Met Your Mother.** Robin tries to find a job. (R)  
**7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra's dress sense causes problems. (R)  
**8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ally gets a low grade at school. (R)  
**8.30 Frasier.** Part two of two. The shrink throws Simon out. (R)  
**9.00 Frasier.** A teenage radio host lampoons Frasier. (R)  
**9.30 Sunday Brunch.** With Neil Dudgeon, Liz Bonnin and the Charlattans.  
**12.30 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast.** Hugh Bonneville joins Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty to relive his Far Eastern travels. (R)  
**1.30 The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon and Kripke battle it out to get Professor Rothman's vacant corner office. (R)  
**2.00 The Simpsons.** Lisa feels neglected by Homer. (R)  
**2.30 The Simpsons.** Homer choreographs the Super Bowl half-time show. (R)  
**3.00 FILM: Penelope (2006).** Romantic fantasy, starring Christina Ricci.  
**Channel 4 News.**  
**4.50 FILM: Mr Popper's Penguins (2011).** Family comedy, starring Jim Carrey.  
**7.00 The Jump.** New series. Sixteen celebrities compete in the winter-sport competition, presented by Davina McCall. In the first programme, the men take part in the skeleton event. Continues tomorrow.  
**8.00 The Hotel.** Mark plans a big wrestling event for the Cavendish, hoping that success could turn the hotel into a centre for the sport, while Mike organises a 1970s night.  
**9.00 Our Guy in India.** Part one of two. Guy Martin takes a 1,000-mile journey across India to compete in a motorcycle race, introducing viewers to a rarely seen side of the country along the way.  
**10.05 The Simpsons.** Homer organises a trip to the Super Bowl – but unfortunately for all concerned, his tickets turn out to be forgeries. With the voices of Rupert Murdoch and Dolly Parton. (R)  
**10.30 The Super Bowl: American Football Live.** New England Patriots v Seattle Seahawks (Kick-off 11.30pm). Coverage of the 49th staging of the showpiece event, from the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.  
**3.30 SuperScrippers.** Highlights from the series providing cash-saving tips. (R)  
**3.40 Kirstie's Best of Both Worlds.** Kirstie Allsopp goes house-hunting in and around Bristol for a couple who need to be situated no more than 30 minutes away from the city's Southmead Hospital. (R)  
**4.35 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.** Jonnie Irwin and Jasmine Harman tempt a house-hunting grandmother with properties near her two daughters – one of whom lives in Brighton and the other in Italy's Veneto region. (R)  
**5.30 Face the Clock.** (R)

## Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig 6.05 Roary the Racing Car 6.15 Angelina Ballerina 6.30 Pip Ahoy! 6.40 The Mr Men Show 6.55 Chloe's Closet 7.05 Toby's Travelling Circus 7.15 Olly the Little White Van 7.20 Bananas in Pyjamas 7.35 Make Way for Noddy 7.45 Paw Patrol 8.00 Little Princess 8.15 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky 8.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures 8.30 Wanda and the Alien 8.45 Zack and Quack 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.15 Jelly Jamm 9.30 LazyTown**  
**10.00 SpongeBob SquarePants.** Double bill. SpongeBob finds a penny.  
**10.35 Access.** Showbiz news and gossip. (R)  
**10.40 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge.** Robson Green takes on some of Mozambique's best anglers. (R)  
**11.40 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge.** Robson Green takes on some of Iceland's best anglers. (R)  
**12.35 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge.** Robson Green heads to Hawaii. (R)  
**1.35 FILM: A Little Princess (1995).** Family drama, with Liesel Matthews.  
**3.25 FILM: Hoodwinked (2005).** Animated comedy, with the voice of Anne Hathaway.  
**4.55 FILM: Made of Honor (2008).** Romantic comedy, starring Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan.  
**6.50 FILM: Hellboy II: The Golden Army (2008).** The demon hero battles a renegade elf prince, who plans to reawaken an unstoppable robot army and destroy mankind. Action fantasy sequel, starring Ron Perlman and Selma Blair. Edited for language and violence.  
**8.55 5 News Weekend.**  
**9.00 Celebrity Big Brother.** The remaining housemates embark on their final week, knowing only one of them can be crowned Celebrity Big Brother winner on Friday night.  
**10.00 FILM: Justice (2011).** A man is approached by vigilantes after his wife is attacked, but learns the price for their help is that he must kill someone. Thriller, with Nicolas Cage and January Jones.  
**12.00 Britain's Flashiest Families.** The habits and lifestyles of people who are unashamedly excessive spenders. (R)  
**1.00 SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming.  
**3.10 Storage: Flog the Lot!** Chuko finds a valuable vase among the contents of a lot. Last in the series. (R)  
**4.00 House Doctor.** A couple from Milton Keynes hope to move to France. (R)  
**4.25 Make It Big.** The team races to sell more tickets. (R)  
**4.50 Make It Big.** The big day arrives. (R)  
**5.15 Angels of Jarm.** (R)  
**5.20 Angels of Jarm.** Otto refuses to share his toys. (R)  
**5.30 Angels of Jarm.** The children argue about their hats. (R)  
**5.40 Roary the Racing Car.** Roary lands himself in trouble. (R)  
**5.50 Roary the Racing Car.** Big Chris cleans Roary's fuel intake. (R)

# Near the water is a winter wonderland

AS a result of writing these columns, it is always a surprise that I get asked to give talks to groups of like-minded people on the subject of our county's wildlife.

You would have thought they might have been put off enough by the written version to bother attending the audible edition, but I am nonetheless thankful and more than happy to oblige.

One of my so-called 'geographical anchors' for my talks is often the subject of water because in addition to the substance itself being one of the most important on the planet, it is also a great wildlife magnet.

Now in late January and throughout February, you really do start to see the waters of our county come alive, even more so than usual.

I began writing these columns in something of a flurry, cramming as many species as possible into each one, largely to make up for my incompetence with the English language, but one also realises if one is lucky enough to be employed for a second consecutive year (and then a third, fourth and fifth), that the realm of different animals starts to diminish rapidly if one is to stick to the well-known species and those that can be realistically sought out by you, dear Reader.

Water  
Henceforth I became a little more specialised in what I wrote, but for this column I am breaking with my recent tradition and in danger once more of shooting myself in the foot.

Yes, water in north Shropshire is a draw for many, many different species for many different reasons at the start of the year; so what are they?

Beginning with the Severn and any other stream or brook you can think of, you may well notice more river than there was last summer or autumn.

This may well be because of the seasonal effect that excess rain and snowmelt has on the levels of said watercourses, but it is also likely to be because

## ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



those drooping willows or bushy riverine vegetation at the margins or on islands, is all but gone.

This loss of leaf coverage opens up the banks for us to catch a glimpse of the wildlife that can be found there and if you're lucky, you'll encounter some real treats.

Grey wagtails which slightly confusingly are more obviously yellow at a glance than grey, but are not the yellow wagtail, are quite conspicuous at this time of the year. Like their cousins the pied wagtails, grey wagtails are constantly moving and constantly 'wagging'.

Indeed the river seems to attract these ceaseless movers as another one you may see perched atop a stone is the dipper (the Rea Brook in Shrewsbury is a good one for these).

Sticking with an avian theme and so long as its environment hasn't iced over, the kingfisher is another bird that although highly visible due to its wonderful colours, stands out even better against the brown and grey stems of leafless plants and trees now. I could go on to mention grebes and herons, but why not turn your attention downward and peer into the depths?

Choosing any lake, pond or farm ditch, you may well begin to see frogs mating in earnest, the bubbling masses of spawn already beginning to fill these habitats.

One of the marvels of winter wildlife, these amphibians seemingly defy the cold to do what is most important to them. Makes anyone wonder why so many of us complain about it; the cold that is.

Check out Ben Waddams' Facebook page for updates on his shows and artwork.



An Eye on the Prize – by Ben Waddams

# Firm reports an increase in profits figure

AGRICULTURAL group Wynnstay overcame a collapse in the prices it could charge for its products to post increased turnover and profits for the last year.

The company, which manufactures feed, processes seeds, fertiliser, and agro-chemicals, and runs country and pet stores, employs hundreds of people at its headquarters at Llansantffraid, and at its major seed processing plant at Shrewsbury.

The firm suffered a triple-pronged attack on its income from price deflation, falling output prices and a mild winter last year affecting demand for products.

But it still saw its turnover edge higher to £413.6 million, from £413.5 million last year, while pre tax profits also improved slightly from £8.46 million to £8.6 million in the full year to october 31.

Finance director Paul Roberts said: "The flat headline figure does disguise some big underlying changes. That £413 million sales figure has been struck after about £37 million of price deflation, particularly across grain and feed.

"It's been balanced by new contributions from the big acquisition we made of Carmarthen & Pumsaint Farmers at the end of last year, and selling more tonnes of certain products."

Shares in Wynnstay rose by around 3.5 per cent in the aftermath of the results, adding 19p.

The growth was supported in particular by the expansion of the group's retail division, which has benefited from a string of acquisition.

While its agriculture business's revenue fell by 4.4 per cent to £308.7 million, specialist retail grew by 16 per cent to £104.62 million.

The volume of feed sold in the year fell by around two per cent, the company added, which was in part affected by the labours of the dairy market, where the fall in milk prices led to a reduction in demand from farmers.

Chief executive Ken Greetham said: "The first few penies of that fall in price are world market related, and after that the pressure of supply and demand have really taken hold." However, he said there was hope on the horizon for farmers, adding: "The broad business base has once again provided a buffer against the challenges arising from the varied trading conditions during the year."

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Joe Powell, 20, from Welshpool who was named student of the month at Harper Adams University



Mairi Eyres from Llangedwyn won a prestigious prize for this photo of a beetle

# YOUNG TALENTS SHINE

## Report by Dominic Robertson

**YOUNG people from around the Oswestry and Welshpool areas have been demonstrating a whole array of talents in recent weeks.**

Leading the way in the talent stakes were students at the Marches School in Oswestry.

After an audition process, 13 acts proved were chosen to perform in the final of the school's talent show.

Each was given three minutes to show off their talent, whether it was singing, dancing or comedy.

The panel of four judges crowned Year 8 student Caitlin Costello the winner after she performed Taylor Swift's 'Love Story'.

Second place was awarded to Eve Mountford who sang and played piano. Third place went to the only comedy sketch of the night, a Year 9 trio of Emily Onley, Kathryn Cooksley and Claudia Savage.

Tanya Bromley, performing arts teacher, said: "Caitlin was pitch perfect and even had backing dancers, creating an entertaining performance. Caitlin performed to a great high standard and she should feel very proud.

"This was certainly the most entertaining and successful talent show we have had in recent years. It was lovely to see the crowd having a good time and supporting all the acts."

Caitlin was presented with a bespoke talent show star trophy, designed and created by the British Ironwork Centre, as well as receiving a £25 voucher donated by Rednal paintballing and karting.

Fellow Marches School student Timothy Doyle has been offered a scholarship at the prestigious London Royal Academy of Music. In September, Timothy, a Year 13 student in the Sixth Form, will enrol on a Bachelor of Music Course at the Academy.

Timothy, who has played the French Horn for 11 years, travelled to Glasgow, Manchester and London for auditions and was offered places at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Royal Northern College of Music, Royal College of Music and Royal Academy of Music.

When Timothy was in Year 10 he secured a place at the Junior Royal Northern College of Music and attended music school in Manchester every Saturday. He is also principal horn player in the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

Timothy is delighted to have secured so many offers and found it difficult to make a final decision. He said: "I considered all offers carefully and decided to accept the offer from the Royal Academy of Music in London.

"I am so excited to be starting there this September and to further my passion for music.

"Moving to London is also going to be an exciting experience."

Timothy's musical talents have also enabled him to previously secure bursaries from the Oswestry Arts and Music Festival and John Matthews Charity.

A talented A level student from Oswestry has won a national competition.

The contest, run by ChemNet, which is part of the Royal Society of Chemistry, was to write an article about a discovery or invention that had affected your life.

The winning article was submitted by Vickie O'Sullivan, a chemistry student at the Oswestry campus of Walford and North Shropshire College.

She wrote an article about the discovery of insulin, because as a diabetic, it has a huge impact on her life.

Her prize was tickets to see the Royal Institution's Christmas Lecture in Mayfair, London.

Meanwhile, talented photographer Mairi



Mairi Eyres has won a prestigious prize in a national photographic competition



Talented Marches School pupil Caitlin Costello with her trophy



Walford and North Shropshire chemistry student Vickie O'Sullivan



Timothy Doyle from The Marches School Sixth Form has shown off his musical skill

Eyres has earned a prestigious award for an incredible shot of a beetle clinging to a blade of grass.

Mairi loves to get down to eye level with her photographic subjects, which often means lying on the floor and finding a whole new, miniature world.

The teenager's photograph of the beetle saw her named a runner-up in the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards 2014.

Mairi, 16, from Llangedwyn near Oswestry takes her stunning photos in the fields close to her house.

She said: "I really enjoy photographing beetles. They are such obvious subjects and yet they are so often overlooked.

"I took all of this photograph in some fields below my house. One of the things I love most about photographing beetles is that you can get down on their level and experience things from their point of view. They have their own

miniature world where grass stems are like trees and meadows are forests.

"With my photos, I try to place the beetles in this landscape but blur their surroundings to create a fusion of colours and shapes."

Television personality, wildlife expert and RSPCA vice president Chris Packham led a judging panel of industry professionals and hosted the award ceremony at the Tower of London.

He said: "There were so many images that showed real skill and imagination.

"It is so exciting to see young people like Mairi are getting out there and trying new things and really learning the art of wildlife photography. It is exciting to see so much talent.

"It is such a pleasure to be a part of this special event that focuses on young people and their love of wildlife and capturing moments from that world. The level of talent this year

is truly outstanding. The enthusiasm shown by these young photographers and the love for the animal kingdom around them is inspiring and they should all be proud of the work they have created."

A young farmer from Welshpool who set up his own pedigree sheep flock has been named as his university's student of the month.

Joe Powell, 20, rears pedigree Charollais rams from his farm at home, which also boasts a 700-head commercial sheep flock and 120-head dairy herd.

Mr Powell, who is studying for a BSc (Hons) Rural Enterprise and Land Management (REALM) at Harper Adams University, has since seen one of his animals crowned the overall champion at a Welshpool ram sale.

He also went on to achieve first and second prizes with the overall highest average and top price.

A former Walford and North Shropshire

College student, Joe beat 2,000 other students to be named Harper Adams' student of the month.

He said: "My stock is pedigree but reared in a commercial manner so that they are not only quality sheep, but highly functional too.

"The Charollais breed produces good lambs and there is a high demand for the right animals as the conversion rates are favourable."

A keen member of Montgomery YFC, Joe enjoys stock judging and hopes that his REALM degree will help him to achieve his dream of becoming a livestock auctioneer.

Mr Powell added: "My course is good preparation for becoming an auctioneer as the placement year in industry will allow me to gain valuable experience. I have already secured a place working for Norman Lloyd, who as well as being chartered surveyors, are also auctioneers."



Moreton Hall School girls enjoyed success at the Rotary Youth Speaks competition held at Oswestry Library



Lucy McGuire won a letter-writing contest

# Success for students



Former student Chloe Whittaker enjoyed art success



The triumphant lacrosse team from Moreton Hall Girls School

**STUDENTS** at Moreton Hall School near Oswestry have enjoyed a successful time of it recently by doing well at various events.

The annual Rotary Youth Speaks competition was held at Oswestry Library and saw three Moreton Hall teams compete. Two of the teams qualified for the district finals in March.

"We are delighted by the success of both our senior and intermediate teams," said head of spoken English at Moreton Hall School, Meriel Halsall-Williams.

"The girls worked very hard for the competition and it paid off on the night." Among the girls who took part in the popular competition were Romy Grigg, Emily King, Ellie Challinor-Hughes, Halcyon Gaynor-Johnson and Sophie Mercer, Eliza Kiel, Lucy Alinson and Georgina Lang.

And the school was delighted to announce former student Chloe Whittaker was awarded the highest grade in England and Wales in Fine Art at A2 level by the examination board WJEC.

Chloe left Moreton Hall in 2014, is now on a Foundation course at Leeds College of Art and has applied to read History of Art next year.

On the sporting front Moreton Hall's 1st lacrosse team were crowned under 19 north schools' champions at a competition in York

**By Dominic Robertson**

and the team now progress to the national tournament in 2015 to take on the finest teams in the country.

The Moreton Hall second team finished a close second in their group, only losing one of their seven fixtures. Hot on their heels was the third team, who finished fourth overall, with the school saying that was a great achievement considering they were matched against strong opposition in their category.

Following exceptional performances reading from the Book of Common Prayer at the annual Sarah Parkes Competition and the Shropshire Festival of Verse and Prose, three Moreton Hall students qualified for the National Finals of the Cranmer Awards, to be held in Worcester in February.

Students Eliza Kiel and Mary Richardson will represent the Lichfield Diocese, while Cordelia Harpin will represent the Shropshire Festival.

Meanwhile Moreton First pupil Lucy McGuire won a competition launched by Shrewsbury Bookfest for children to write a letter imagining that they had been caught up in the trauma of war.

Lucy wrote the winning letter imagining she was a little girl in hospital writing to her father who was fighting in the battlefields of Northern France.



Cranmer finalists Mary Richardson, Cordelia Harpin, Eliza Kiel

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**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399

**ALICE** 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416087

**LUCY**, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty boys of any age for no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1887 Box No: 413443

**DIANE** 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks tall male for interesting conversations and cosy intimate nights together. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416085

**ADVENTUROUS** sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any area. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301

**BRIDGET** 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416083

**LUCY**, broadminded 18yrs seeks discreet fun with men any age. Aca Tel No: 0905 002 1941 Box No: 365051

**ATTRACTIVE** tall, dark, professional gent, GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeking female with GSOH for laughs, conversation and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415969

**SEXY** brunette, mid 20's busty, adventurous broad minded seeks no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 361739

**ATTRACTIVE** professional widow, 73, WLTm sincere caring gent, widower for friendship, meals in, conversation and to put a smile on our faces. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415951

**JANET**, 36yrs Scottish lady, too shy to go out but loves to chat from home. Will answer all texts. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627442

**KAREN** 50, widow, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415871

**MELANIE**, sophisticated solvent brunette with working man of any age, Im 30yrs. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627443

**GWEN** middle aged, 65-75, 5ft 2ins, likes theatre, country music, holidays, seeks N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415785

**LINDY**, new to area, hoping to meet kind mind of any age, looks unimportant. Im 43yrs blonde and petite. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627444

**ASIA** very attractive slim single black 32yr female looking for fun times with god time guy with GSOH and a real passion for life and falling in love. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415837

**PAMELA**, married to boring man! Text only for fun phone frolics. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624149

**SARAH** 31yrs looking for casual 1-2-1 no strings fun with broadminded bored male. Status unimportant, discretion and mutual respect essential. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415821

**JULIA**, seeks fifty shades of grey! You should be strong minded and seeking fun. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627445

**LINDA** uncomplicated female who loves the simple things in life, looking for N/S male with GSOH for nights in/out, no games, users or wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415555

**SUSAN** 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411329

## CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm  
or email us at [support@jmediauk.co.uk](mailto:support@jmediauk.co.uk)

**SUSIE** bubbly blonde looking for fun. Age/looks unimportant but must have a sense of adventure. Can travel and accommodate. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624145

**PATRICIA** widow 67, likes simple pleasures in life, seeks gent, N/S for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415685

**PHILLIPA** 22yrs just left boarding school, hoping to meet experienced working class man for real life fun. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624147

**KAREN** 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415767

**SLIM** brunette 36yrs hoping to meet older gent for friendship, fun, maybe more. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624146

**GEM** 34yr old pretty brunette with lovely big eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLTm kind tallish male, 30-50yrs for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415571

**PAMMY** 42yrs, recently divorced and fancies becoming a "cougar". Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624148

**SYLVIA** attractive blonde size 12 45yr old female looking for genuine companionship, someone to spend quality times with, enjoy music and cosy times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415543

**HOME** alone far too often, attractive bubbly fun good time girl 32yrs seeking male 30-50yrs for broadminded daytime fun. Let's rid of boredom! Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415523

**SUE** attractive, independent, confident female, sporty, petite, loves the Arts, good books, looking for romantic, sensitive nice guy for nice times together. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415501

**KAREN** medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415429

**AMANDA** 5ft 4ins slim fit attractive, enjoys the outdoors, nice wine, theatre etc. seeking romantic considerate soul mate to broaden my horizons. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415391

**SAM** attractive single mum who really enjoys life and likes to be happy WLTm genuine single male/dad for mutual companionship, dates in/out and tic. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415381

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**KAREN** medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415429

**23YR** old Asian female, seeks sugar daddy, any age for fun and sex. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415367

**YOUNG** looking female, likes rock music, concerts, theatre, seeks Rock male with similar interests for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415249

**MANDY** very attractive, slim single mum 36yrs, employed, OHAC, looking to share some quality times with similar genuine kind hearted social male/dad. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415409

**65YR** old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414773

**DIANE** attractive singleton seeks male to have some fun with, meals out, cinema, dancing and just see where things lead from there. Age/race unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415373

**SHELIA** Asian 20yr old female, very pretty, feminine with long hair, enjoys nights in/out, seeking mature white male 55plus for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415181

**MARGARET** 39, attractive active female likes animals, reading, meals in/out, seeking considerate partner for good laughs, companionship, shared interests and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414727

**KAREN** 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, no drinker, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415211

**BUBBLY** larger than life 26yr old blonde beauty, seeks large built male to fulfill my every fantasy! Give me a call: I will totally make your day maybe even your year. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414977

**BARBARA** 38 slim sporty attractive blonde, varied interests, single and ready to date, seeks kind honest guy for shared interests, fun nights out, hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414957

**JULIE** single petite attractive big blue eyed brunette, loves cooking a cosy meal in, nights out, searching for real love with genuinely nice guy. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414491

**GOOD** looking professional lady, 56, enjoys the arts, country walks, meals out, seeks compatible, genuine, professional gent to enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415007

**ANGIE** 38yrs slim blonde, ex model with lovely long legs with shapely figure, fit, toned, sporty, confident but warm, WLTm similar perceptive, sensitive individual for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414723

**BECKY** stunning big blue eyed 38yr old honest, caring and fun person looking for nice times with similar outgoing fun guy status/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414391

**NICOLA** 32, blue eyes, petite, pretty brunette, shy at first, trustworthy, caring, varied hobbies, seeks male/single dad up to 40yrs for tic possible ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414707

**CATH** 37yr old very bored housewife seeking bored male for some fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414497

**JANET** tall beautiful brunette, slim 12, JANETed, enjoys life, no hang ups, wanting quality time, friendship and possible romance with similar guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413415

**ANITA** seeking nice man in the West Midlands, 50-70 for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413765

**SONYA** slim attractive vibrant lady with GSOH, social nature, ifractive, WLTm N/S male up to 60yrs for romantic genuine respectful relationship, loving. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413441

**EMMA** petite slim blue eyed blonde 22yrs likes cinema, dancing/music, just chillin, seeking easygoing male for fun and good times but nothing serious. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413207

**EUROPEAN** beauty romantic, caring, attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy warm loving relationship with, call me to find out more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413013

**KAREN** 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids, seeking special honest guy/dad for poss ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413005

**ROSA** 27 sexy senorita seeking older handsome prime charmishing to whisk me off my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English and to share good and bad times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412927

**RITA** attractive blonde with a very kind heart seeks special man to share my life with. Please get in touch if like me you are fed up with always being the single friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412987

**JAN** 58fins slim lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many interests, WLTm someone for cuddling up and to share good and bad times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412931

**ANN** slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to get along with, looking for romantic interesting man for new adventures together, hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412911

**JULIE** loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412777

**KATY** 26 slim beautiful discreet blue eyed blonde looking for mature gent for some uncomplicated fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414209

**ANNABELLE** 29 slim tanned beautiful sophisticated sensual brunette, loves the high life, Champaign lunches, weekends away, seeks very own sugar daddy for sweet nothings. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414191

**SARAH** 38yr old bored blonde seeking single guys up for some good times, chats and discreet meets. Looking forward to hearing from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414177

**EMS** 32yrs petite young looking, pretty, likes swimming, walking, talking etc. seeking honest blonde or dad up to 40yrs for fun adult friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413853

**NATALIE** 22yrs attractive brunette nurse, very slim, athletic figure, many likes, few dislikes, WLTm male up to 38yrs to stay at home and have some fun with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413839

**MAZ** 36 petite curvy big blue eyes, loves music, beach walks, cosy nights with good conversation and nice wine, seeks similar likeminded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413571

**HELEN** feisty redhead with many interests including beach walks and quiet nights in, looking for male with GSOH and a passion for travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413669

**ANN** slim attractive widowed but not past being loved lady, loves travel, country good conversation, WLTm kind genuine male, 35-65 for ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 413453

**GWENDOLINE** honest, trustworthy, seeks caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre, evenings and nights out for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412293

**DIANE** voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTm nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412321

**SARA** bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you. Don't be shy. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412055

**EMMA** petite young looking 31yr old attractive single brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412037

**ANNABELL** 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with lots to offer seek older male to appreciate and treat me like you. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412177

**KAREN** slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412041

**KIM** 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving fun ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411777

**CAROL** young 47, caring, lovely, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411919

**PROFESSIONAL** black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly farmer for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411763

**VICKY** 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411695

**LUCY** beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411691

**SALLY** stunning lady looking for dinner dates, partying and generally having a good time with generous man looking for his moel No strings, go on call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412599

**DEBS** petite attractive auburn haired, good listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring N/S single dad. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412387

**JAN** slim curvy professional warm, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412167

**ATTRACTIVE** slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for a cut above the average relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412725

**KAREN** pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412377

**JEAN** petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, WLTm older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412359

**JULIE** really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411517

**GWENDOLINE** honest, trustworthy, seeks caring gent who enjoys cinema, theatre, evenings and nights out for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412293

**DIANE** voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, WLTm nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412321

**SARA** bored blonde looking for single gents for fun, chats and meets, looking forward to hearing from you. Don't be shy. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 412055

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**CAROL** young 47, caring, lovely, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411919

**PROFESSIONAL** black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly farmer for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411763

**VICKY** 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411695

**LUCY** beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 411691

## Men seeking women

**REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.**

**PAUL** 56, works part time, seeking nice lady, 55-65 with GSOH, honest, genuine and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416017

**MALE** 49yrs, N/S, likes gym, meals out seeking solo mate 40-50. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4626867

**SEAN** looking for female to share a coffee, pub, clubs and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 414549

**MALE** 69, laidback, easy going, GSOH, likes golf, nights in, seeking lady, 65-72 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 416029

**MALE** widower seeks honest female, non smoker, who likes dogs music reading and quiet relaxing times. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4625673

**NICK** 52, 6ft, slim, genuine, seeking slim female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415881

**GENT** 53, 5ft 11ins, brown eyes, distinguished, seeking attractive lady, 30-45 for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415809



**MATTHEW**, 43 widower, business manager, solvent, reasonable looks but lonely. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624150

**45YR** old male, 5ft 10ins, muscular, outgoing, adventurous, genuine, seeking lasting loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415873

**JAS** 40, looking for attractive young female for good times and socialising. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415805

**FIT** 68yr old male, feels 40, looks 30, genuine, seeks N/S female 66-72 with GSOH to share fun times and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415787

**MARK** 6ft, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, seeking that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415697

**MALE** 47, medium build, seeks female, 40-50 for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415651

**JOHN** 46, West Midlands, seeks local black/Asian female, 30-70 for discreet adult fun, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415591

**MALE** seeking fun bubbly female, 21-30. Tel No: 0906 500 3724 Box No: 415473

## Teamwork rewarded at Vauxhall dealers      Tinting firm boss calls on rival to help out with Prison Service order

**A second Vauxhall award has been achieved by Arthurs of Oswestry and Newtown.**

The latest success is a financial recognition from Vauxhall's regional management which covers a vast swathe of the country from Cumbria to Merseyside, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Cheshire and the whole of North Wales.

The award is made annually to the Vauxhall dealer who excels across the business.

The recognition comes on top of Arthurs recent award when it was named as the top performing Vauxhall dealer in the country for customer satisfaction.

Arthurs operations manager Steve Hughes, pictured, said: "For Arthurs, 2014 has been a tremendous success, not just because of the customer satisfaction award, but also for a massive increase in new and used car sales.

"Arthurs 50 employees have all pulled together to make 2014 a great year and it really was a team effort.

"New car sales are up by 30 per cent and used car sales by 50 per cent which is a record for the company.

"Not only has Arthurs had a good year for new and used car sales, but also the company has expanded to take on a suite of offices in Oswestry town centre.

"This has meant that we have been able to set up a new customer relationship management department which will help Arthurs to grow the business still further in 2015 and beyond.

"Although this new team has only been formed for three months the initial results



are very exciting and encouraging for the future," Steve added.

**A Telford company is helping to improve the safety of hundreds of vehicles which will be supplied to the Prison Service.**

And to make sure the job is completed on time bosses have drafted in the services of a rival business to help out.

Duncan Richards, owner of Telford-based Autoshtine and Tinting, won the contract to fit specialist safety film to the windows of 340 Vauxhall Astras at the end of November and has just weeks to complete the job before the vehicles need to be handed over to the Prison Service.

Mr Richards said: "It's fantastic to win such an exciting contract but it's a big job to tackle single handedly especially with Christmas and New Year celebrations in between so I have asked

Ian Gough, the owner of Solarshade in Telford to help me out.

"I needed someone who can install film to a very high standard, so although Ian is a competitor I know his work is good.

"I feel competition in business is a must, without competition we would not push ourselves and our businesses forward, and sometimes there are times when small businesses can join forces and support one another and this is a perfect example of that."

Mr Richards was contacted by his customer after the business was let down by another company.

He said: "We have been UK leaders in window film installation right across the UK for over a decade now, covering most of the country.

"We don't advertise much, we find our reputation speaks for itself and most customers like

this one have found us from good word of mouth which is fantastic.

"Good window film installers are few and far between but Telford is lucky that there are two of us based right here."

Based at Tweedale Court in Madeley, Autoshtine and Tinting is part of the UK Tinting Group. The company specialises in providing tinting to all vehicles and covers all of Shropshire and parts of the West Midlands.

Mr Richards is also the director of mobile service and repair company Mobile Service Experts, also based in Madeley.

For further information on the services offered by Autoshtine and Tinting visit the website [www.autoshtineandtinting.co.uk/](http://www.autoshtineandtinting.co.uk/) or contact 07731 448453. More information on Mobile Service Experts can be found on the website [www.mobileserviceexperts.co.uk](http://www.mobileserviceexperts.co.uk)



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# Popular Cayenne gets an upgrade

If you don't think the chunky Porsche Cayenne already looks big or imposing enough, the latest one has an answer.

While actually stretching a tape measure precisely as far as before, the styling has been changed to make this imposing SUV look wider still. And an 'enhanced power dome' on the bonnet will give drivers in the cars ahead even more visual stimulus to get out of your way.

This added styling toughness (only roof and doors are unchanged from the previous Cayenne) are part of a thorough reworking of the model that single-handedly turned round the fortunes of the brand.

It's hard to recall the critical vitriol poured over the first Cayenne when a shocked world of car enthusiasts saw the first one in 2002; many regarded the foray into SUVs as nothing short of a betrayal of the firm's sporting roots.

But the planners were right; the world was waiting for a fast, big Porsche ready for the rough stuff.

Successing versions of the Cayenne have both proved increasingly good to drive and looked a bit less butch; even

By Ian Donaldson

the 'added wideness' of this latest third model doesn't grate in an age where there are lots of really big 4x4s lined up outside the school gates by mid-afternoon.

The Cayenne has been the best-selling Porsche worldwide (and in the UK) for years and the current comprehensive update won't harm prospects of that continuing – although its slightly smaller new Macan stablemate might give it a run for its money (sold out for more than a year).

Beneath the new panels, every engine in the Cayenne range has been reworked for more power and economy.

Most radical are the Cayenne S (£60,218), which has shed two cylinders – it's now a V6 – but increased power, and the £61,474 Cayenne S E-Hybrid, which mixes petrol and electric power to give up to 22 miles on current alone and 151mph top speed with both power sources flat out.

The new range starts at £49,576 for the slow-selling entry level petrol version and tops out, for the moment, at £118,455 with the 173mph Turbo S. Most popular model in the UK is the Diesel tested here, which comes in at just under £50,000 until you're tempt-

ed by an options list that cheekily includes heated front seats (£295) and a digital radio (£324) which ought to be standard.

As well as injecting a bit more verve into the range, the Porsche engineers have been through the suspension and tweaked it with the twin aims of adding sporting precision and comfort at the same time.

A morning hooning around the track at the Porsche Experience Centre beside the grand prix tarmac at Silverstone showed that the Cayenne gets as close to defying physics as anything made by man.

Less expensive Cayennes (a relative term) rely on good old fashioned steel springs but still manage to corner without drama at unlikely speeds. The Turbo comes with air suspension (a £2,379 option on all other models) that can be made firmer for those enthusiastic cross-country drives when you're feeling a bit Jensen.

Out on the road – the real world where most Cayennes will spend their working lives – the Diesel impressed with a plush and inviting interior and was quite quick enough, thank you. It also showed 42mpg at the end of a brisk drive.

So big on the outside but a bit of a miser under the bonnet.





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# Fabia estate offers more

By David Banner

**ŠKODA's latest Fabia Estate arrives in the spring and will be available in three trim grades: S, SE and SE-L. The third-generation Fabia estate is priced from just £12,460 and offers a significant specification boost over the outgoing model.**

Entry-level S models feature six airbags, DAB digital radio, Bluetooth, Stop/Start and electric front windows as standard, while SE models (from £13,905 on-the-road) add manual air-conditioning, alloy wheels, front assist, Arkamys surround sound package and Bolero radio with telephone control, Mirror Link, USB and SD card connections.

SE models also include a three-spoke leather steering wheel, height adjustable driver and passenger seat, Maxi-DOT trip computer and black roof rails.

Range-topping Elegance models (from £14,755 on-the-road) add even more features including 16-inch alloy wheels, climate control air-conditioning, Light assistant, cruise control and KESSY – keyless entry system.

In addition to its generous equipment levels, the new Fabia features a striking new look, sector-best practicality, greater efficiency and a host of Simply Clever innovations.

Utilising advanced MQB platform architecture, the new Fabia estate performs the impossible by being larger and stronger

than its best-selling predecessor, yet tipping the scales at up to 65kg less.

This significant reduction, along with the introduction of cleaner EU6-compliant engines makes the new Fabia up to 17 per cent more efficient.

The Fabia estate's low running costs and reduced CO2 outputs are certain to appeal to fleet buyers.

Benefit in kind rates start from just 14 per cent with seven of the 17-strong range qualifying for zero rate road tax.

The 1.2 TSI 90PS engine is expected to be the most popular with UK buyers.

## Practical

Unveiled at the Paris Motor Show last September, the new Fabia estate builds on the strengths of its predecessor.

Its boot volume of 530 litres (with the seats up) makes it the most spacious in the sector, while its maximum load volume of 1,395 litres puts rivals in the sectors above to shame.

And it's not just sheer volume that makes the new Fabia estate such a practical proposition.

The 960mm loading floor is now wider than in the previous model while the tailgate opens to 1,900 mm and is 1,028 mm wide.

The loading sill is only 611mm high, making loading the car up easy.

The passenger area is also wider (+21 mm) and longer (by +8mm), and although the car is now slightly lower, there's more headroom for the driver and front seat passengers.

The estate has been a key part of the Fabia range since 2000 and accounts for



**'It's not just sheer volume that makes the new Fabia estate such a practical proposition.'**

25 per cent of Fabia sales in the UK. More than 1.1 million examples have been sold worldwide, confirming its appeal with buyers looking to combine exceptional load space with a compact frame and affordable price.

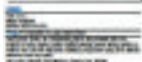
Alasdair Stewart, brand director for ŠKO-

DA UK said: "The Fabia estate has always represented terrific value for money and I'm delighted that we're able to offer even more with the third-generation model. The estate has always been key member of the Fabia family and I look forward to its arrival."

## Motoring

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38 Saints roll  
Stone over  
for crucial  
three points

Oswestry & Border Chronicle  
Thursday, January 29, 2015

ST Martins consolidated second spot in the West Midlands League division one after seeing off one of their chief rivals Stone Old Alleynians 2-1 at Park Hall. After netting 12 goals in their previous two outings, this was too prove a far closer affair, but goals in each half from Shin Miah and Karl Bailey were enough to see the Saints clinch a hard-earned three points.

And Ryan Butcher's men now put their winning form to the test on Saturday when they visit top of the table Bromyard Town who ran out 2-1 winners when the sides met back in December.

The Saints made the perfect start to last week's encounter with Miah firing home a 20-yard free kick after just five minutes.

But Stone were back on terms five minutes later as Karl Dibden broke down the right despite strong appeals for offside and squared for Grant Bigham to convert.

Two minutes later, the hosts went close to restoring the lead as defender Mike Lloyd headed against the bar from another Miah free kick.

### Crucial

Stone were quick to break, but were well shackled by the home defence, while the Saints carved the better chances at the other end.

Eventually, they found a way through on 75 minutes when Shawn Melusi and Miah linked up, with Miah's cross rebounding off the keeper and Bailey nipped in to score.

Stone piled forward late on, but the home side held firm to secure a crucial win that puts them in good fettle for Saturday's top of the table showdown at Bromyard.

■ Former Welshpool forward Jamie Breese helped Llanidloes Town continue their revival in the Cymru Alliance with two more goals in his side's 3-0 home success over Rhayader Town.

Breese, who also hit the woodwork, gave the Daffs an interval lead as they battle to escape the drop.

The forward then headed his second from a Charlie Proctor cross, his 19th goal of the season, before Karl Selaerts sealed it four minutes from time with a 30-yard chip following a poor clearance.

## Waterloo book their final ticket

TWO goals from Mark Proctor propelled Waterloo Reserves into the final of the Montgomeryshire Tanners Cup with a 3-2 victory over Newtown Wanderers.

Jack Holley also found the net, with victory now setting up a final against the club's colts side who were 5-3 winners against Llanfair reserves.

Tom Ellis, Ryan Ellis, Tom Herbert, Josh Morgan and James Watkins shared the goals with Toby Evans (2) and Chris Humphreys responding.

**Montgomeryshire League Tanners Town Cup semi-finals:** Llanfair Res 3 Waterloo Colts 5, Waterloo Res 3 Newtown Wanderers 2. Llanstffraid Village Cup: Berriew Res 3 Four Crosses Res 2.

**Honda Division One:** Abermule Res 5 Llanfyllin 1, Meifod 1 Caersŵys Res.

**Mitsubishi Division Two:** Forden 2 Maesyrhandir 5, Llanyrnach 2 Welshpool Res 2, Morda Utd 1 Llanstffraid Res 1.



Going downhill fast – world downhill bike champion Gee Atherton (left) and Rachel warm up for the new season in California. Pictures: Ian Collins.



# Team Atherton geared up for more success in 2015

REIGNING world downhill bike champion Gee Atherton is backing the triumphant GT Factory Racing team to ride their way to more success in 2015.

As the riders threw themselves into their first intensive training camp in Del Mar, California, Llanrhaeadr-based Atherton Racing confirmed the continuation of their successful relation with GT Bicycles and also announced three new partners for the coming season.

"I honestly believe that we have the best team in the world," said Gee, the mens elite world champion.

"When I get to the start-gate I know exactly how much expertise and dedication it has taken to get me there – mechanics, support team and sponsors all pulling together. I can't wait to welcome Jeep, iXS and Bell to the family."

Jeep, the iconic 4x4 brand, will become an official team partner, providing vehicles and collaborating on media projects, while iXS will supply clothing and protection and Bell helmets.

### Support

The team will continue to ride the GT Fury bike – equipped with components from Shimano, Fox, Continental and Pro – that carried all riders to World Cup wins last year.

In their fourth year of partnership with GT Bicycles, the team will be aiming to defend the world championships as well as to regain the title of "World's Fastest Downhill team" which they held in 2012 and 2013.

The Enduro team will also look to notch up some wins in the Enduro World Series.

It's very much a family affair with Gee, brother Dan and sister Rachel all riding for the team.

And manager Dan Brown is looking for the line-up

### CYCLING by John Bridgwater

to do even better this time around.

"We're delighted with Gee's world championships win but I'm 100 per cent certain that we have even better things to come in 2015," he said. "I'm confident with our excellent support team and all of our sponsors behind us, we're going to deliver."

A lingering illness picked up in South Africa made 2014 a difficult year for Rachel, though she still posted glittering results by anybody else's standards – a UK national championship, two World Cup wins, second in the World Cup series overall and second by a cruel 0.08 seconds in the World Championships.

Rachel said: "I am so motivated for 2015. Last year was hard, really hard especially as I watched the other women racers get stronger and faster, but they'd better watch out for me in 2015 because I want those titles back!"

Marc Beaumont will be leaving the 2015 squad allowing Taylor Vernon, who won his first junior World Cup at Windham just 13 months after breaking a

bone in his back, to race at elite level for the first time.

For the Enduro team, Dan Atherton is back to full racing fitness and is impatient to get started on this year's World Series, where he will ride with 18-year-old Martin Maes for the third consecutive season.

Martin, who won a World Cup in Downhill last year at Fort William, Scotland, will continue to race in the General Classification – despite his junior status.

"For me 2015 is going to be all about Enduro, all about racing with Martin and putting together a set of top-class results," said Dan.

"Gee's right about the key role that sponsors play in our team, our partnerships are working collaborations with brands that we really believe in."

GT Factory Racing's new partners were delighted at the the new deal, with a Jeep spokesman saying: "The Athertons are at the top of their game and embody much of what the Jeep brand signifies – adventure, determination and capability. We're incredibly excited about sharing this with the Jeep community over the months ahead."

## Plenty of positives from defeat



Flanker Aled Humphreys tries to shake off a Ruthin defender. Pics: Trevor



Scrum-half Alwyn Williams touches down for COBRA's fourth try

## COBRA battle goes on

COBRA continued their battle to stay clear of danger in the Swalec Welsh League Division One (North) after picking up two bonus points from their 34-27 loss at Ruthin.

Trips to the North Wales venue have earned scant reward in past seasons for the Meifod men, but a spirited showing kept them in the hunt despite trailing 16-0 at one stage.

And they could take plenty of positives from outsourcing the home side by four tries to three, only to pay for conceding a number of penalties.

Bryn Edwards, Lloyd Bright, Sion Wyn Williams and Alwyn Williams were the try scorers for the visitors

Despite remaining fourth from bottom, COBRA hold a seven-point buffer over the relegation places as they prepare for a crucial home game against mid-table Caernarfon on Saturday.

Top try scorer Wyn Williams is a fitness doubt for the weekend after breaking his hand and full back Rhodri Jones is un-

available. Harry Jukes could return from university to boost the back line, however, and fly-half Llew Williams is also set to return.

It proved a frustrating start last week for COBRA who fell behind after conceding three penalties, and also a breakthrough despite their Ruthin hosts being down to 14 men.

At 16-0 down, they faced a tough task, but responded well with prop Bryn Edwards powering over for a try just before half time after being fed by No8 Jack Jukes.

WELSHPOOL's home clash with Bangor University in the Swalec League Division Three (North) was postponed as the students were unable to raise a team while second team were also left kicking their heels with Wrexham II unable to fulfil their fixture in the North East Wales County League.

Pool will be hoping to get back on the pitch on Saturday when they make the trek to Anglesey to take on Benllech.

## Oswestry's Dan wings in for the N Wales rugby side

YOUNG Oswestry RFC winger Dan Morgan is shaping up to be one to watch up for the future after gaining representative honours.

After being a regular try scorer for the club's junior colts side, Morgan landed a chance to play for the North Wales (Rugby Gogledd Cymru) youngsters in their Welsh Regional Age Grade clash against Ospreys.

This is the first in a series of games to be played between the Welsh development regions over the coming weeks, with matches watched by selectors seeking to identify young talent within the Regions. Ospreys ran out narrow 10-0 winners in the opener.

Morgan came to Oswestry RFC as a novice player at under-14 and has put a huge amount of time and effort into rugby, the result being the massive strides in his rugby development.

He has tried a number of positions, but has seen most success on the wing, having scored a number of tries for the club's junior colt side and RGC during preparatory matches.

As a border club, Oswestry attracts players from both sides of the Welsh Border and feeds into both English and Welsh rugby development groups.

### Learning

"Dan is testament to what can be achieved given commitment and the right learning environment," said the club's director of rugby Gareth Barrett.

"He is one of a number of players associated with Oswestry Rugby Club who have received representative honours at county and regional level across the age ranges.

"It is absolutely fantastic to see our young players gaining representative rugby honours. I believe passionately in developing and supporting our young athletes at Oswestry to reach their full rugby potential.

"Our aim is to make sure we provide young players with an environment that is enjoyable and safe, but yet challenging.

"The objective is to create a well-structured player pathway so to fully prepare these athletes for the transition into age grade and senior rugby."



Dan Morris – called up for North Wales rugby side

## Barton is spot on as Guils up to second

A BRACE of penalties from top scorer Danny Barton lifted GUILSFIELD up to second place in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance with a 4-1 victory at rock bottom Rhymymwyn.

Although battling Rhydy were in the hunt after Lee Jones levelled just before half time from the penalty spot, the Guils sewed up the win with late goals from Adam Jenkins (81) and James Henderson (89).

The villagers had gone into the match without regular keeper Dave Littleford who was withdrawn through illness, but Chris Cathrall made an able deputy between the sticks.

However, they were dealt an early blow with a head injury to Andy Ford who was replaced by Mark Davies whose first contribution in the match was to be upended in the box. Barton stepped up to crash home the spot kick off the under-side of the bar.

Guilsfield spurned numerous changes in the first half and rued those misses as Rhyd were given a penalty on the stroke of half time which saw Lee Jones level from the spot.

Barton restored the lead when he put away his second penalty in the 66th minute for his 20th goal of the season after Adam Jenkins had been tripped.

Jenkins himself rifled home the best goal of the game after he was set by Davies and Jack Richards nine minutes from time, before the excellent Henderson capped a faultless performance by getting on the scoresheet when heading home a Davies free kick in the last minute.

Guilsfield's win keeps up the chase at the top as Caernarfon dropped points in their goalless draw at home to Holyhead. Mike Parry's side will look to keep up the winning habit at Conwy Borough on Saturday.

## Banw back – but are hit for six

PLAYING their first game in seven weeks, Dyffryn Banw were downed 5-2 at home to high riding Hay St Mary's to remain in the lower reaches of the Spar Mid Wales League division two.

Banw had more than matched the title chasers in the first half, leading 2-1 through Rhodri Davies and Jamie Huxley before being pegged back to finish all square at the break.

However, Hay ran riot in the second half with four more goals as the hosts tired due to their lack of match action after a string of postponements in the wintry weather.

**CHURCHSTOKE** were edged out 4-3 at Presteigne whose Shaun Prince bagged a hat-trick, with Callum Matthews getting the other.

Elsewhere, Abermule swamped Newbridge 7-1, while Knighton Town kept the pressure on the leaders after winning 2-0 at Borth United.

In the day's other game, Penybont were 2-1 home winners against Bont.

## GOLF RETURNS

**OSWESTRY**  
Sunday Morning Draw For Partners – Four Ball Better Ball Medal (15 Holes): F Mottram & A Allen 52; M Knapper & J Pearce 54 (c/b); G Huggett & P Turner 54 (c/b); S Probert & M Jones 54 (c/b); S Probert & J Harris 54.  
Ladies' Draw for Partners AM-AM Stableford, 13 holes: S Watnabe, A Davies, D Hall, M Green, 71 points; M Male, M Dunbar, K Jones, H Whiting, 67 points.

# FC Oswestry up to second

FC OSWESTRY Town maintained their challenge in the Mercian Regional League premier division with a hard fought 2-0 victory away at Shifnal 97.

Second half goals from Paul Bache and Dave Hartshorn, with a penalty, took Nick Maguire's side up to second spot, one of three teams on 29 points.

However, Town – who visit Wroxeter Rovers on Saturday – are still nine points behind leaders Telford Juniors, having also played two more games.

Town started brightly at Shifnal but it was the hosts who shaded the first half with their best chance crashing against the bar, while the

visitors' best opportunity fell to Hartshorn whose clever chip rolled just outside the post.

The second half saw Town take control of the game with midfielders Oly Jones and Rich Morris pulling the strings, while Hartshorn posed plenty of problems up front for the home side.

But it was not until the 70th minute that the Oswestry men made the breakthrough when Bache was on hand to force the ball home after great combination play from Martin Cheeseman and Hartshorn.

The points were then sealed in the 83rd minute when Bache and Hartshorn combined well down the right and Bache picked out Chee-

seman who was then tripped in the box, with Hartshorn converting the resulting penalty.

Second placed **GOBOWEN CELTIC** cranked up their promotion push in division two with a 28-0 demolition of whipping boys Denso.

Louis Morris led the romp by rattling up eight goals, with Joe Pierpoint just one behind on seven.

Nathan Williams scored five times, with Ian Heathcock (2), Jamie Roberts (2), Richard Hardy, Luke Dwyer, Edward Rogers and George Morris all scoring against the basement side.

**ST MARTINS VILLAGE** finished 2-2 at home to Riverside in the same division, with Liam Bailey and Aaron Coulson on target.



FC Oswestry's Dave Hartshorn waits for a chance at Shifnal

# Quigley doubles fires TNS step closer to treble dream

**TWO-GOAL Scott Quigley led the way as The New Saints stayed on course for a famous treble after lifting the Word Cup with a convincing 3-0 victory over Bala Town in the final at Newtown's Latham Park.**

The 22-year-old forward proved a constant threat with his strong running as the Saints continued their unbeaten campaign by claiming their first piece of silverware of the season – the sixth time they have landed the trophy.

The Welsh Premier high fliers never looked back once man-of-the-match Quigley had broken the deadlock on the half hour with the first of his brace, and, with Chris Seargeant also finding the net, it proved a job well done for Craig Harrison's men.

Victory, watched by Wales manager Chris Coleman, made amends for the penalty shoot-out loss to Carmarthen Town two years ago – and kept TNS firmly on course for a treble this season with the Welsh Premier and the Welsh Cup also firmly in their sights.

The Lakesiders, who have yet to defeat TNS in any competitive game, proved a handful early on as they launched several early forays, with Ian Sheridan's looping header clutched by keeper Chris Mullock, who was again given the gloves ahead of Paul Harrison for this competition.

Sheridan headed over with another looping effort, while some rash early tackles brought bookings for Bala's Mark Connolly and Will Bell. At the other end, Aeron Edwards dragged a low shot wide of the left post from the edge of the box on 12 minutes, while the lively Cieslewicz brought the first save of the afternoon from keeper Ashley Morris who gathered the winger's low strike from the edge of the box.

The Welsh Premier high-flyers took the lead in the 29th minute when Cieslewicz's cross from the left was met at the far post by Kai Edwards, the ball bouncing across goal before falling for Quigley whose deflected close-range volley looped up over the defence before floating into the top of the net.

Bala should have levelled moments later but spurned a terrific chance when Connolly's inviting cross to the

## FOOTBALL – by John Bridgwater

far post from the right was met by an unmarked Sheridan who could only head over the bar.

It was then the turn of Aeron Edwards to spurn a golden opportunity for the Saints in the 36th minute when failing to make proper contact with Cieslewicz's left-wing cross. But that miss was soon forgotten as the league leaders crucially gave themselves a two-goal cushion four minutes before half-time.

## Curling

Cieslewicz worked a short corner on the left with Chris Seargeant, who cut in before curling his shot through a crowd of players and past keeper Morris.

Bala needed to make a swift riposte in the second half, and worked a good opening on the left only for Connolly to lose his footing from Sean Smith's cross.

But it was the Saints who looked increasingly assured on their accustomed 3G surface, with Quigley blazing over from 20 yards and Chris Marriott seeing a shot deflected wide after a well worked move.

Matty Williams was then denied by a goal-line clearance following Seargeant's strong run from the left, while Kai Edwards had a headed effort ruled out for pushing from a corner.

The Saints' abundance

of strike options was underlined when new signing Jamie Reed came on for top scorer Greg Draper on 70 minutes.

And the full-timers almost increased their lead moments later when Sam Finley's crunching volley was kept out by a super save from Morris at full stretch, while Quigley's glancing header from the resulting corner was cleared off the line at the back post.

With Bala pushing, the Saints looked an increasing threat on the break and wrapped up the win 10 minutes from time.

Some neat movement on the edge of the box ended with Chris Marriott crossing from the left for Quigley who, in acres of space, headed firmly past Morris.

Quigley scented a hat-trick but saw his shot on the turn deflected over the bar five minutes from time, and Kai Edwards put a late effort wide with the Saints now in total control.

**Bala Town:** A Morris, R Valentine, S Smith, D Artell, W Bell, C Murtagh, R Pearson, M Jones (S Brown 73), K Smith (M Hayes 73), M Connolly, I Sheridan. Subs not used: C Vernon, T Davies, W Muscat.

**The New Saints:** C Mullock, S Spender, C Marriott, P Baker (capt), K Edwards, A Cieslewicz, C Seargeant (C Rawlinson 83), S Quigley, G Draper (J Reed 70), M Williams (S Finley 63), A Edwards, Subs (not used): J Mullan, R Pryce, R Kershaw.

**Referee:** M Whitty (Swansea)  
**Attendance:** 697



Scott Quigley celebrates netting for TNS in the Word Cup final at Latham Park, Newtown



Their New Saints celebrate their Word Cup final victory over Bala Town. Pics: Malcolm Couzens

# Llanfair march on – and net goal No 100

RUNAWAY leaders Llanfair United maintained their relentless pursuit of the Spar Mid Wales League division one crown after netting their 100th goal of the season in their 4-0 victory at Llansantffraid Village.

Llanfair's unbeaten record was put the test in a goalless first half, before the league leaders netted four times after the break to clinch another success that saw them extend their advantage to 16 points at the top.

"The score probably flattered us and was harsh on them, but it was a good win as this was always going to be a tricky game," said manager Rhys Stephens.

After a goalless first half, Ross Frame broke the deadlock with a net finish, and James Davies netted a second - which brought up the milestone of the team's 100th competitive goal of the season.

Luke Gethin then made it 3-0 with a terrific 30-yard strike before Chris Gethin sealed the points late on.

**LLANRHAEDR** warmed up for Saturday's big home tie with Glantraeth in the

FA of Wales Trophy fifth round with a 6-0 stroll at basement strugglers Aberystwyth University.

Three goals came in each half, Ben White's powerful drive at the near post putting the visitors in front after 13 minutes - and there was no way back for the students after that.

Tom Evans doubled the lead with the first of his hat-trick on 26 minutes when rounding the keeper after being put through by Iwan Matthews.

It was three a the break courtesy of Iain Edmunds' strike, and that advantage was increased just two minutes into the second period through Evans' second of the afternoon.

The midfielder then completed his treble in fine fashion on 69 minutes when dispatching a curling shot into the net from outside the box.

Victory, which took the visitors up to fifth in the table, was rounded off when Edmunds netted his second from the penalty

spot after White had been brought down in the box.

Will Thomas fired a hat-trick as **WELSHPOOL TOWN** went goal crazy with a 7-2 romp against Machynlleth at Maesdyr, Jack Harris joining the spree with a brace while Rob Cookson and Callum Preece got the others.

**WATERLOO ROVERS** lost ground on the leading pack after succumbing 3-1 at Penrhynoch who moved second thanks to a brace from Liam Jaques. Mattie Davies netted the other, with Will Pritchard responding.

Goals in each half from Peter Rees and Sam Williams earned **CARNO** a 2-0 verdict at Bow Street to move up to third, while at the other end of the table **BERRIEW** were locked in a goalless deadlock at fellow strugglers Tywyn Bryncreg.

**MONTGOMERY**, lying second from bottom, picked up a useful point in their basement fight with a 3-3 draw at Aberaeron.

Callum Bromley, Elliot Jones and Nick

Rawlings all found the net, but the hosts responded through a Gareth Severs brace and a Stefan Griffiths penalty.

■ A hat-trick from Steve Blenkinsop saw **CAERSWS** ease into the quarter-finals of the Central Wales Cup with a 7-0 passage at Builth Wells.

John Owen also weighed in with a brace, with Scott Williams and Jake Parr getting the others, to set up a home tie with either Aberystwyth University or Llansantffraid in the last eight.

Llandrindod Wells are also through after seeing off Rhosgoch 4-0, and will meet either Rhayader Town or Hay St Marys in the fourth round.

Draw for the fifth round: Caersws v Llansantffraid Village or Aberystwyth University; Llanoedion Town or Carno v Cardigan Town or Waterloo Rovers; Penrhynoch, Guilsfield or Borth United v Llansantffraid or Llanfair United; Llandrindod Wells, Rhayader Town or Hay St Marys v Kerry or Bow Street.

Youth Cup semi-finals (two legs): Aberystwyth Town or Newtown v Llanfair United or Waterloo Rovers; Llandrindod Wells v New Quay or Llanoedion Town.

Ladies Cup (two legs): Llanfyllin v Newtown, Tregaron or Felinfach v Aberystwyth Town or Newcastle Emlyn.

## Super win for ladies side against high fliers

A RESOLUTE team display saw Oswestry Ladies stun title chasing Lymm II to boost their own challenge in the Cheshire Womens Hockey League division two.

Looking to avenge a 1-0 loss in the last encounter between the sides, the Oswestry team were relishing the task with a full squad of 16 at their disposal.

And they rose to the occasion to secure a 2-1 victory that consolidates third place in the league, thanks to first half goals from Rachel Artahan and Sarah Lowe.

The game proved tough from the start, with Lymm pushing for the win to keep the pressure up on title rivals Neston. Playing skilful, passing hockey, the visitors were quick to press when Oswestry had possession, but it was the hosts who took the lead when a driving run and cross by Lisa Bladen was met by Arthan.

The advantage was soon doubled when Sarah Lowe was in place to sweep the ball into the roof of the net.

Going behind somewhat against the run of play, seemed to galvanise Lymm into action but the home side worked to try and break down the opposition.

A series of short corners were awarded, but Oswestry were able to get out in time before being breached just before half-time.

The hosts started the second half positively, determined not to lose the advantage which they had earned.

Lymm pushed for the equaliser, but a cohesive defensive display, with keeper Liz Killen in fine form, earned Oswestry a fine win, putting them in good heart for Saturday's trip to Warrington.

## PLACINGS

### Spar Mid Wales League

DIVISION 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Llanfair Utd.	18	16	2	0	78	26	50			
Penrhynoch	18	16	2	0	38	17	34			
Carno	19	10	3	6	48	31	33			
Rhosgob	17	9	5	3	38	32	32			
Llanfyllin	15	9	4	4	38	28	31			
Waterloo	18	4	7	4	48	39	28			
Welshpool	19	7	7	5	40	41	28			
Llansantffraid	20	8	4	8	35	41	28			
Bow Street	18	7	4	7	39	28	26			
Aberaeron	19	7	3	9	41	45	24			
Four Crosses	16	6	4	9	36	40	22			
Berriew	21	5	11	33	50	20	16			
Machynlleth	18	2	10	51	21	20	10			
Tywyn/Bryncreg	18	5	10	35	54	18	10			
Montgomery	19	4	11	34	37	16	10			
Aber Unit	17	1	0	16	19	64	3			

DIVISION 2										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Hay St Marys	16	14	0	2	70	33	42			
Knighton	15	13	1	1	71	13	40			
Kerry	14	11	0	3	40	22	33			
Buith Wells	17	9	3	5	47	27	30			
Abermule	15	9	0	6	56	34	27			
Churchstoke	17	1	9	47	56	25	10			
Borth Utd	15	8	0	7	36	35	24			
Bont	16	6	1	9	32	42	19			
Nridge-on-Wye	17	5	0	12	29	55	15			
Dyffryn Banw	14	4	2	8	28	30	14			
Presteigne	14	4	2	8	35	55	14			
Penybont	16	3	0	13	34	61	9			
Talgarth	18	0	3	15	24	84	9			

### Mercian Regional Football League

PREMIER DIVISION										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Telford Jrs.	12	2	0	43	11	38	6			
FC Oswestry T.	16	9	2	5	41	22	29			
FC Hodnet	16	8	5	3	39	25	29			
Whitchurch Alp	15	9	2	3	37	23	29			
Chilke Erall	16	5	5	42	28	25	20			
AFB North R.	16	8	1	7	31	41	25			
Aliscot	15	6	5	4	35	24	23			
Wellf Ans R.	13	6	2	4	28	20	21			
Church Stretton	19	6	3	10	34	29	21			
Shifnal Utd 97	17	6	6	3	32	28	21			
Wroxeter Row	14	6	1	7	40	29	19			
Kelley Bala Utd	13	4	1	10	23	37	17			
Prees	18	4	4	10	29	40	16			
Madelley Sports	17	0	3	11	26	56	12			
Weston Rovers	11	0	0	11	4	77	0			

DIVISION 1										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
AFB Broseley	15	13	0	2	59	13	39			
Dtton Comm SS13	9	8	2	5	51	28	29			
Wroch Wood	11	8	1	1	42	14	28			
Rock Rovers	15	5	2	1	6	57	27			
Bishops Castle	16	7	1	8	33	38	22			
Che H Hill United	13	6	5	5	35	25	20			
Brown Clee	13	6	2	6	29	37	17			
Wroch Wd Jrs	16	3	5	8	27	47	14			
AFB Wellington	14	4	1	9	30	44	13			
Caveley	14	4	1	10	24	50	13			
Oakenhams R.	16	2	2	12	17	57	8			

DIVISION 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Highley MW .....	16	14	0	2	106	13	42
Stoke Heath .....	15	12	1	2	76	26	37
Gobowen Celtic .....	15	11	1	3	94	22	34
Spallag Brit .....	15	8	2	5	52	36	26
Belvidere .....	15	8	1	6	54	40	25
Shifnal Harriers .....	16	6	5	4	54	40	23
St Martins Vill. ....	16	5	2	9	52	56	17
Riverside .....	15	4	4	7	40	45	16
Albrighton Jnrs. ....	14	3	8	47	42	15	
AFC Brose Rye .....	14	3	5	6	29	25	14
Whitchurch AR .....	15	2	4	9	30	53	10
Densu .....	16	0	0	16	10	246	

